BRITISH MUSEUM

JOHN BULL

Vol. VI. No. 142 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1909 ONE PENNY.

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For meaning of this number see page iii. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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Vol. VI. No. 142. Saturday, February 20th, 1909. One Penny.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

By the time these lines are read, the Parliamentary fun will have begun. Our great regret is that we shall be out of it. But we shall know what are the "matters of grave and urgent concern" to which Mr. Asquith refers in his whip.

One of them, of course, is the question of the Lords. We well remember the expression of grim determination upon the faces of good Liberals when, a year ago, the King read that passage in his Speech promising steps for the removal of the impasse which had arisen between the two houses. And we well remember the smile on the faces of the Opposition when, a few months later, dear old "C.-B." moved those wonderful Resolutions. Now, we are told that "a single clause in a short Act of Parliament" will do the trick. But an Act of Parliament cannot be passed without the assent of the Lords! "Enough of this fooling."

Another, is undoubtedly the Navy. It is an open secret that keen difference prevails in the Cabinet. The Prime Minister has formally adopted the two-Power and ten per cent. standard. Very well. America has just appropriated twenty-seven and a half millions and Germany twenty-one millions for the current year. Taking these two items and adding ten per cent., we get over fifty-three millions for our own requirements. Poor Lloyd George!

And that leads to the question of ways and means. A deficit of four millions on the year's accounts, to be added to the National Debt, provision for Old Age Pensions, a declining revenue, the requirements of the Sea Lords, and the demands of the Labour Party—well, we must hurry up the hearing of Rex *v.* Ourselves, and get back to the House. We still have that twenty millions up our sleeve—without any Tariff Reform, except upon Foreign Investments.

It has been solemnly announced that "one of the conspicuous events with which Empire Day is now commemorated is by the competition by teams of eight schoolboy marksmen." Pop-gun patriotism!

A very angry Suffragette has been writing to complain that the old-age pension has been refused to 130 British women on the ground of their having married aliens living in this country, while on the other hand it has been granted to fifteen foreign women who have become the wives of British men. She considers it "a degradation to women," "nothing short of an outrage," that a British woman should lose all the rights and privileges due to her as a British subject, even her very nationality, and become practically an alien in her own land. But the remedy is a very simple one. She should be content to marry one of her own people.

An "Union Jack is to be purchased for Hove Public Library." Out of the public funds, we presume. Surely the people who cannot experience patriotism without a sight of that emblem of the Act of Union must be somewhat feeble in their devotion to England. If they require this stimulus, let them pay for it out of their own pockets as they would for brandy or cocaine. Why not follow the example of our German friends and don Union Jack waistcoats?

The *Daily Express* says that "in addition to worldly wealth Lord Dalmeny inherits the prestige of his father's political reputation." This sounds like being cut off with a political shilling.

Much unnecessary fuss has been made about an old woman at Ligny, alleged to have seen Buonaparte. Anybody who has been over the battlefield knows that every peasant there professes to have been present at the battle, and is ready to prove the fact by producing and selling old bullets.

We are glad to hear that the War Office has forbidden a military band to hire itself out for the amusement of foreigners, and we hope the whole system of leasing musicians, who are after all British soldiers, will be overhauled. There is something undignified about paid performances of a portion of our Army at Kiralfy exhibitions and other entertainments.

An anti-suffragist sends us this idea of what he thinks Tom Hood, if he were still living, would write:—

Oh! Women with Brothers dear!
Oh! Women with Husbands and Boys!
Just think of the patience you're wearing out
With your infernal noise!
"Votes! Votes! Votes!"
Better by far to flirt,
Or, sitting at home by your own hearth-stone,
Sew buttons on father's shirt!

Dame Nation has been snubbed for wasting the time of the Court. But what about learned Counsel? We *could* name a case—but not a word!

A Newport correspondent sends us the following extract from *The Journal*, Carmarthen:—

MR. BOTTOMLEY YN BARRI DOC.

Dydd Sul diweddaf bu Mr. Bottomley, A.S., yn traddodi araeth rymus o dan nawdd Undeb y Blaid Llafur yn Barri Doc. Adnabyddir Mr. Bottomley fel Socialwr cryf, ac efe yw awdwr y papyr o'r enw John Bull.

And favours us with this literal translation:—

MR. BOTTOMLEY AT BARRY DOCK.

Last Sunday, Mr. Bottomley, M.P., delivered a forcible address under the auspices of the Independent Labour Party at Barry Dock. Mr. Bottomley is known as an ardent Socialist, and he is the author (*sic*) of the paper called John Bull.

Doubtless the Independent Labour Party will at once institute proceedings against our contemporary for libel.

We entirely agree with Mr. Mostyn Pigott that it is a shame to hire unfortunate messenger boys to stand for hours among the queue outside a playhouse. Mr. Arthur Lord, Secretary and General Manager of the Messenger Boys, says that the average time of waiting is only "one and a half hour," and that "waiting at the pit doors is work which the boys very much enjoy, and for a good reason." What that good reason is, we are not informed. It must be a very golden reason to make snow, sleet, wind, fog and double pneumonia enjoyable even for a paltry hour and a half only. We suggest that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children would be well employed in looking after these poor boys.

One of the self-constituted arbiters of literature has been trying to pillory a harmless firm by reprinting a letter which begins, "Dear Sir,—In reply to yours of the 23rd inst.," and adding "(*sic*)" after the word "yours." There is, however, no rule either of literature, grammar or convention to the effect that the subject of a pronoun must always be expressed. Compare the phrase: "Je vous la souhaite belle et bonne," where the word année is understood but not expressed. In the same number of the same critical journal, oddly enough, we read: "In view of the fact that Mr. Forbes Robertson never possessed *a throne* of any kind, we can quite understand his lavish generosity in the matter of giving *them* away." Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?

The egregious W. T. Stead has once more made himself a laughing-stock. He has come forward as the sponsor of a toy called the "Sexophone." This is a kind of pendulum with a pith ball attached, and we are seriously, if ungrammatically, told that "by holding the Sexophone over any living creature the pith ball will gyrate if the animal is a male, and swing backwards and forwards in pendulum fashion if the animal is a female." Great curiosity was naturally aroused when it was proposed to experiment with Stead, who is notoriously an old woman, but the instrument obstinately refused to swing backwards and forwards. After this it is scarcely worth while experimenting with Lord Avebury. However, there are, happily, other ways of ascertaining the sex of animals, but the Sexophone may still be useful for testing eggs at election time.

The invasion of England is an obsession with the *Daily Mail*. After pointing out that money was being offered for the purposes of Territorial recruiting faster than men for enlistment, our contemporary went on to say, "But money alone can avail nothing. Cheques for £10,000, though they pour in by the hundred, will not save England in the hour of peril when the guns of the invader are thundering on the outskirts of London." There is no "if" or "how" about it, be it noted, in the eyes of the *Mail*; it is only a question of "when." And we must remember that this is the journal which published and puffed William le Queux's story about the "German Invasion of 1910," and placarded London with sensational announcements of London in flames and ashes. All the same, we think such utterances peculiarly ill-timed, just as the King has been arranging for the indefinite postponement of hostilities.

Supposing the wife buys a tin of salmon from the corner shop, and said salmon contains a poison, which results in her death, are you entitled to recover from the grocer damages assessed on the basis of pecuniary loss? That is the question upon which the Court of Appeal has reserved judgment, though the special jury who heard the evidence seems to have had little difficulty in coming to the conclusion that the financial value of the wife to her husband ought to come into the damages. They, therefore, awarded him £4 3s. for costs of medical attendance, £29 13s. for funeral expenses, and £200 for her personal value. There are husbands in the world, no doubt, who not only would be willing to run up a bill of mortality for their wives per medium of tinned salmon, under guarantee that the vendor should be freed from all financial responsibility, but be willing to give a special bonus for early results. We mention this to show that the value of a wife really comes to a judicial inquiry into the circumstances of each particular case. If it can be shown that the husband systematically neglected her, quarrelled with her, or occasionally hit her with the poker, it is obvious that her loss to him when poisoned by tinned salmon is nil. But doubtless the Lords Justices of Appeal, who are all respectable and happy married men, will duly weigh the case in all its bearings.

We will not vouch for it, but we have it on what ought to be excellent authority, that the Treasury has sent round a Minute to the various departmental heads of the Civil Service, deprecating any encouragement of recruiting within the ranks of the Civil Service. Whilst Mr. Haldane is perambulating the country urging citizens to do all in their power to help to fill up the Territorial ranks, his colleagues of the Treasury—if we are correctly informed—are doing what they can to prevent Civil Servants taking any part in the movement. Only a day or two ago Lord Lucas announced that he had been informed by a representative of a group of firms employing between 25,000 and 30,000 men, that they have agreed to give three weeks' holiday, with pay, to all who enlist—on condition that a fortnight of it should be spent in camp. But what is the treatment meted out to Government employees? Those under the Postmaster-General—a department which makes an immense trading profit—can go to camp in most cases only if they sacrifice their holiday. Mr. Haldane has promised them special leave, but many of them, if they are to have this leave, must either pay for substitutes, or make up an equivalent of work as unpaid overtime, and they are mainly juniors, whose annual holiday does not exceed a fortnight. Is this the way to encourage re-enlistment after the fateful March 31st next?

The muddleheadedness of some of our unpaid magistracy is well displayed in the recent sentence of double flogging passed at the Northallerton Quarter Sessions on an alleged "incorrigible rogue" under the antiquated Vagrancy Acts. The culprit in the case was a black man. We have no information as to his actual offence, but that is nothing to the point here. The point is that the magistrates passed an utterly illegal sentence, ordering two separate floggings with the lash, though they are entitled to order only one. This flagrant ignorance of the law they administer seems to have startled the Home Secretary, for not only did he remit the second flogging, but he postponed the first one until the time for presenting an appeal had expired.

We will not discuss the question whether lashing as a punishment should remain on the English Statute Book. But certainly lashing sentences ought to be legally given. In this case it is quite clear that if the Humanitarian League had not called the attention of Mr. Gladstone by telegram to the illegality, the man would have suffered an unwarrantable punishment.

We have few differences with Mr. Winston Churchill on any question of practical politics so far as he has publicly expressed his views. But it strikes us that he is in the way of being a somewhat startling revolutionist in the matter of bankruptcy reform. For instance, he told a Chambers of Commerce deputation the other day that "he did not look upon a creditor as a public benefactor. The mere fact that he was a creditor showed that he had been guilty of misplaced confidence, and that therefore he was not altogether entitled, as many thought, to claim State protection." If that dictum were applied in other relations of life it would mean that all the knaves would pretty well have their own way with all the fools, thus confirming the theory of some alarming minds that fools were born in order that knaves might live. No doubt a man who is imposed on by a thimble-rigger, or a three-card trickster in a railway carriage is a victim of misplaced confidence; but would Mr. Churchill suggest that on this account he should be debarred from calling for a policeman?

As an illustration of the way in which the unemployed are exploited by some of the worst characters, the conviction of the secretary and the organiser and treasurer of the Chelsea unemployed is well worth the serious attention of those honest out o' works who are so often misled into joining begging and demonstrating processions instead of devoting all their time, energy, and shoe-leather to looking for a job. These men were proved to have robbed the unemployed of part of the funds collected, and the police pressed the case home by proving that one of them was a professional burglar several times convicted, and the other a "work dodger." Hundreds of the men who march in processions of unemployed are known to the police as thoroughly bad characters with whom honest British working men, even though down on their uppers, would be ashamed to walk if they knew the truth. In a sense, a burglar at the head of a procession of unemployed gives a touch of comedy to perhaps the most difficult problem of ourday. It suggests that the burglary business, too, is in a bad way. However, as the *Express* will have it, Tariff Reform means work for all.

Sir Edward Clarke made some rather severe strictures on the R.S.P.C.C. for bringing the Canon Lambert cruelty case into court, apparently forgetting that the Society had a large number of witnesses who repeated in the witness-box what they previously told the officers. If their statements were true the Society would have failed in its public duty if it had not prosecuted. Among their witnesses was a doctor who attended the child, and his testimony was not shaken. On the other hand, there were many witnesses who testified on the other side, and we take it that it was this conflict of testimony which decided the jury to their verdict of not guilty. Practically, the remarks of Sir Edward Clarke about the Society were a subtle invitation to Mr. Justice Pickford, but his lordship's only observation to the defendants was "You are discharged." However, like everybody else who secures a verdict of not guilty in an English court, the Canon and his wife are entitled to all its moral and legal weight, and our earnest hope is that the memory of the fierce fires through which they have passed will serve the better to equip them for their spiritual and social duties to the people among whom they labour.

Lord Morley happened on an unfortunate allusion the other day at the welcome in London to Dr. Sven Hedin, the Tibetan traveller and explorer. "Dr. Hedin," he said, "tells us that he tried to drive a flock of sheep, and that he found he had no gift for driving sheep. If he had been in the profession of politics he would have found that these gifts are sorely needed." Now Lord Morley is a member of the Cabinet of a Liberal Government, and his remarks about the sheep were not much of a compliment to the rank and file of his party. But the trouble for a long time now is that, however much or however little the gifts of sheep-driving may be needed in politics, the Cabinet neither lead nor drive. They leave it all to the dog.

As ex-Mr. Justice Barnes said the other day, the present condition of the Divorce Law operates as a distinction between the rich and the poor. Hundreds of people who are entitled to a divorce, and would be glad to get one, are unable to obtain relief from their misery because they cannot afford to bring their witnesses from long distances to London. It may be justly said, therefore, that while it is easy for the unhappy rich to obtain a divorce, it is all but impossible for the unhappy poor. There is no other country in Europe where the poor are so heavily handicapped. The remedy is in two directions—to cheapen the process below a certain income, by a sort of sliding scale, and to extend divorce jurisdiction to local and assize courts. The best way to make marriage popular is to render divorce (of course, when justified) easy.

It was the injustice of divorce by Act of Parliament which paved the way for divorce by judicial decision. The famous address of Mr. Justice Maule to a bigamous hawker who pleaded in extenuation that his wife had left her home and children to live with another, and that he had never seen her since, drew men's mind like a magnet to the injustice of the law of that day. After telling the man that he should have brought an action for damage against his wife's seducer, and then commenced a suit in the ecclesiastical courts for divorce *a mensa et thoro*, Maule went on, "When you had obtained a divorce *a mensa et thoro* you had only to obtain a private Act of Parliament *a vinculo matrimonii*. The Bill might possibly have been opposed in all its stages in both houses of Parliament, and altogether these proceedings would cost you £1,000. You will probably tell me that you never had a tenth of that sum, but that makes no difference. Sitting here as an English judge it is my duty to tell you that this is not a country in which there is one law for the rich and another for the poor. You will be imprisoned for one day." At the present time not fewer than 160,000 people throughout the country are judicially separated and unable to re-marry. This is an appalling condition of things. It is neither more nor less than a legal incitement to immorality, especially among women to whom temptation comes through the pinch of poverty. Surely the time has come when the common justice of our legislators should be whipped up by public opinion to practical action. We must re-introduce our Bill.

How the times have changed in Ireland, if not the manners! Time was when Mr. William O'Brien, he who declined to wear the breeches, was the coddled darling of Erin's wildly-beating heart. When he put in an appearance on the platform at the Convention the other day the bhoys howled him down bedad, and there was the divil to pay. Subsequently, there was a sort of grand mêlée, in which even Mr. John Redmond was for some minutes in imminent danger of being hashed up by Mr. Crean, M.P. Though these amenities of debate are to be regretted, they must be taken merely as evidence of that jovial Irish spirit which, admirably

as it is now kept under control in the House of Commons, dearly loves a political row. Under Mr. Redmond the Irish members are distinguished by an almost stately decorum, and it will be readily gathered that some of the Convention fail to understand what their representatives are in for. Truth is, Mr. Redmond is a statesman, and he has discovered that the best policy is the waiting one—and that if he doesn't wait too long he will win.

For fifteen years Dr. Edward Westermarck has been making researches into the natural history of right and wrong, and has lately published the second and third volumes of his monumental work, "The Origin and Development of the Moral Ideas." We don't suppose that he or any other savant will ever get much further than the fact that the question of right and wrong is almost entirely a matter of personal opinion. It is true that certain standards of conduct receive the sanction and approval of a nation; but in thousands of cases individual opinion differs from the general verdict, although it may appear to acquiesce in it. Take the case of a starving man who steals a loaf of bread to keep the life in him. The nation as a whole calls him a thief and consigns him to punishment. At the same time, there will be thousands of people who, in their inmost hearts, feel that the man has done no evil, and that he is to be pitied for the punishment rather than blamed for the act. Right and wrong are exchangeable terms; the vice of one age becomes a virtue in the next. But there is one immutable guide to right conduct, a maxim which persists through the ages, and was first uttered, so far as history can show, by that fine old Chinese philosopher, Confucius: "Do unto others as ye would be done unto."

We are asked by a well-known writer on horticultural topics to direct the attention of the Councils of the Royal Horticultural Society, the Institute of Journalists, and the Journalists' Union, to the following advertisement which appears in the columns of our philanthropic and devout contemporary, the *Daily News*:—

> EDITORS (Provincial).—Why purchase Syndicate Gardening cols. when you can buy for 3s. 6d. weekly a col. (full newspaper length) of a F.R.H.S.? Matter sent typed. Specimen in proof. Answers to readers' Horticultural questions, gratis. Exclusive right of publication for a large area guaranteed. Publishcd examples of work submitted.—Address, &c.

We are children in these matters, and the forequarters and the hind part of the gentle cauliflower are all one to us. But the F.R.H.S. who wants to write full newspaper columns at three-and-six a go, and to throw in as many "Answers to Correspondents" as you like, seems to be cutting it somewhat fine. If he knows what he is writing about, he ought to have no difficulty whatever in getting at least six times the pay he asks; and if he does not know, he would be dear even at 3s. 6d. per column—"Answers" thrown in. Anyway, we suggest to the other Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society that this sort of journalistic blacklegging is unlikely to improve their own prestige in the sight of men and gardeners, and that it ought to be seen to.

What with civil servants, Labour Members, briefless barristers, released criminals, and Fellows of the R.H.S., the genuine journalist is being subjected to a good deal of illegitimate competition just now. The correspondent who sends us the above advertisement says naïvely: "Surely this F.R.H.S. must be on the staff of the War Office or Kew Gardens, or how can he make it pay? Thirty thousand words—the amount to be written for twenty papers, each taking a weekly column—would require, say, 30 hours at the least to write; an average of twenty answers to each paper would mean 400 per week—say another fifteen hours' research and writing. A respectable typist would charge £2 for typing this quantity of matter, at 1s. per 1,000 words; the total received by F.R.H.S. for it would be £3 10s." What F.R.H.S. asks for his work—and it is no doubt worth what he asks—is his own affair (and that of the Journalists' trade-union); his use of the "F.R.H.S." in this connection is certainly the affair of the famous and reputable organisation in question. Perhaps the Rev. W. Wilks, of Shirley, the secretary of the same, will tell us what *he* thinks about it?

The dear brethren have been again busy at Newcastle, we notice. For some time Sunday concerts have been held in the Pavilion Theatre, in aid of the Lord Mayor's Distress Fund. The directors lend the building, printers and others take special discounts off their standard charges, and the whole of the proceeds, after payment of expenses on accounts submitted to the Lord Mayor, are devoted to filling the empty stomachs and shoeing the bare feet of the poor and hungry children of the city. Through their manager, the directors of the theatre pledge their word that they do not make a penny piece out of these concerts, which are of a similar high-class character to those organised in London by the National Sunday League. Yet the Newcastle Presbytery has passed a resolution severely condemning them and those who take part in them. It is, of course, much cheaper for this remarkable collection of alleged God-serving, God-fearing men to pass resolutions than it is to shell out for the starving children of the city. Apart from the sums the concerts realise for this work of public charity, they make Sunday brighter and happier and more mentally profitable for thousands of people. No doubt to a certain extent they compete with the churches, but they also compete with the pubs, and if the churches cannot look after themselves it is obvious that they are losing grip of the people, who can have no sort of sympathy with those who steep themselves in narrow-mindedness, prejudice, intolerance, and cant, and then pose as the elect of the Lord.

A thousand pities that the Scots Guards, or rather the 2nd Battalion, should be bringing a bad name to the Brigade of Guards. Arriving from Aldershot recently, some young soldiers celebrated the occasion too freely, and for several days there were more arrests for drunkenness than was compatible with the ordinary character of the regiment. So the adjutant addressed the men on parade, and a picquet had to be put on in Edgware Road where, particularly, the more riotous scenes had been enacted. Remembering that picquets had been taken off at Aldershot, and that the soldier was being placed on his honour, it seemed strange that just the reverse should be happening in London. The public, moreover, do not discriminate between the different regiments of the Brigade of Guards, and so the Grenadiers, the Coldstream, and the Irish have come under a ban which they have not at all deserved. Whether there is something wrong with the battalion or not, the outbreak is a strange one. The 3rd Battalion Scots Guards was disbanded by Mr. Haldane, and one would have thought those remaining would have done their utmost to keep up the name of one of the proudest regiments in the British Army.

The strenuous efforts of the obscure to obtain notoriety are sometimes pathetic. The other day a dinner was held at the Grosvenor Club, Piccadilly, "in honour of the authors of the day." This would be a harmless piece of gastronomy, but for the fact that the *Daily Telegraph* gave these "authors" a column report and that no real authors appear to have been present. Let us look at the list. The Dean of Hereford was in the chair, no doubt a worthy ecclesiastic, but not precisely a luminary of letters. He was supported by the Earl of Stamford, who said that "the peers were

taken aback when they had to look like themselves on such an occasion as next Tuesday. (Laughter.) At ordinary times a peer could slink about the country in any costume he liked"; by dear old Lucy, Mr. *Punch's* snarler, who boasted that "he had subscribed to no football club or bazaars. (Laughter)"; by a parson named Ditchfield, author of "City Companies of London and Their Good Works," who "thought it would be a good plan to form a kind of society, the object of which would be the destruction of all hostile critics. (Laughter)"; by Sir Henry Cunningham, who said that "to make notes of his speech that night he had taken a dessert plate and the chairman's stylo—(Laughter)"—the stylo appearing to have brought forth one prehistoric joke; by Mr. Chesterton, who made the first sensible remark of the evening, observing that "he did not know why he should reply to the toast of literature" (no laughter); by Sir Charles Wyndham, who said, "I sometimes speak after dinner, it is true, but then on those occasions I do not dine. (Laughter.) On this occasion I have dined very well—(Laughter)—and the result is very painful"; and by Canon Duckworth, who "gave the chairman." It is not stated that he forgave him. "AUTHORS AT DINNER"!

We should like to see all the Lord Mayors and Mayors of the country take a leaf out of the book of Alderman William Wallace, of Halifax, who undertook to give a sovereign to the parents of each of the first hundred children whose births were registered in his year of office as Mayor, and who were alive at the end of twelve months. A few days ago the Alderman held a public reception of babies to redeem his notes of hand, and found that no fewer than ninety-one of the youngsters were alive. The mothers in every case had had printed instructions as to the feeding and rearing. Careful attention in this respect, plus the certainty of a bonus, handsomely reduced the percentage of deaths during the period of life when many thousands of children are lost to the country through ignorance and carelessness. Hearty congratulations to Alderman Wallace and the mothers of the auriferous ninety-one.

The licence assumed by counsel is becoming a serious scandal. We recently had occasion to rebuke the ex-Lord Advocate for his ill-bred insolence in referring to a lady by her surname without any prefix. Now we have a Buzfuz at Dublin reducing a girl witness to tears and being rebuked by a juryman.

WORRIED LOOKS.—XV.

MR. HALDANE AND AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

For stating, according to the "Western Mail," that there is "something like a revolt at Cambridge, where an attempt is being made to make the undergraduates wear their TROUSER-BUTTONS TURNED DOWN *instead of up."*

THE TAILOR AND CUTTER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For describing Mr. William Morrell as "First-class PRETTY *Officer of the 'Research.'"*

THE BOURNEMOUTH DAILY ECHO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "since the inauguration of this society, much SPADE-WORK *naturally had to be done to put the profession upon sounder business principles."*

THE BURNLEY UNDERTAKERS' ASSOCIATION
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For telling a crowded meeting of business girls, "Round your NECK *should be a beautiful piece of embroidery with ornamental enamelled buttons and a* WAISTBELT."

MISS FITZGERALD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For printing an advertisement of the offer of a fried fish business for sale under the heading "Musical Instruments,"

THE SUNDERLAND DAILY ECHO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following advertisement; "Cook-general wanted at once, age over 200."

AN ADVERTISER IN *THE ISLINGTON DAILY GAZETTE*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing that he is "willing to be useful when NOT *required."*

A CHAUFFEUR ADVERTISING IN *THE BIRMINGHAM DAILY MAIL*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that a lady "was at one time the only source of supply of milk and butter—when Totland's inhabitants mustered about 300."

THE FRESHWATER, TOTLAND AND YARMOUTH ADVERTISER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that Mrs. Stirling's mother "was in a sombre BLACK *new dress. It was of rich* BROWN *velvet,"*

THE DUBLIN EVENING HERALD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "the procession was COMPLETED *by* ENDLESS *ranks of foot-police in uniform,"*

THE EVENING NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For stating that "*TWO *native rats swarmed in* MYRIADS,"

THE DAILY EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that Longboat "was walking ALONE IN COMPANY *with his manager,"*

THE UMPIRE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising a testimonial from an actress under the heading, "How great men recoup their energies,"

THE SANATOGEN COMPANY
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "at length the Local Government Board have given their decision with regard to the vexed question of the proposed purchase of fifty acres of Cassiobury Park for the benefit of the people of Watford and their ANCESTORS *for ever."*

THE WATFORD HERALD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

PRISONERS AT THE BAR.

By Herbert Vivian.

FIELD MARSHAL EARL ROBERTS OF KANDAHAR, PRETORIA, AND WATERFORD, V.C., K.G., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., P.C., D.C.L., LL.D., O.M.

Frederick Sleigh Roberts, you that are the prisoner at the bar, hold up your hand. You stand convicted of conspiracy against the lives and liberties of the people of England. It is very painful to see you in this humiliating position, more especially as, in your younger days, you proved yourself to be a brave and capable officer, serving your country with considerable merit. I shall not omit to take cognisance of your antecedents in passing sentence upon you, but it is impossible to minimise the enormity of your offence. Indeed, the high position which you have secured, the stream of honours which has been lavished upon you, rendered your efforts as an agitator infinitely more dangerous than those of obscurer and less respected men.

Bobs Does Advertise.

And what an agitator you have made! If you had been content to appear by yourself at public meetings and stumble through the monotonous manuscripts, which you seem unable to read intelligently, you would soon have been silenced with ribald laughter and contemptuous neglect. You would have been confronted by empty benches. The very reporters would have given you a wide berth. But, with culpable weakness, you have allowed yourself to be made the stalking-horse, the decoy, the cat's-paw of obscure and unscrupulous adventurers, who made use of you to further their own sordid political ends. Some sought to sell their vociferous newspapers or their raucous reviews; others wanted to wriggle into Parliament under a Brummagen banner of spurious patriotism. It was they who packed your meetings, who wrote out your speeches, who advertised you like a new pill, who degraded you to the level of an unsuccessful tub-thumper. But your learned counsel has not pleaded that you are irresponsible for your actions, and the jury had no choice but to find you guilty of misdemeanours which were inspired by your evil companions.

It used to be one of the prime boasts of your tame doggerel poetaster, Kipling, that you did not advertise. But you have now advertised vicariously for many years. I seem to remember a story about a small child on your knee, and the bearer of urgent despatches being told to go away because you were busy. That was a silly advertisement because, if the story had been true, it would have implied grave dereliction of duty. Then there was your advertisement of the end of the Boer war long before hostilities were at an end. That was less silly, though not more true, for it was believed; and you consequently received the thanks of Parliament and an enormous sum of money in reward for services not rendered. No doubt, however, it helped to reconcile you to the introduction of old-age pensions for humbler servants of the Empire.

Carnage of Tin Soldiery.

Now let us consider the nature and effect of your latest advertisement. In the first place, you are nominally conducting a raging, tearing propaganda for teaching the very young idea how to be shot. In other words, you mumble on every platform that, if only the little children are suffered to play with pop-guns and baby targets, are cozened into a craze for calisthenics, and join Baden-Powell in the game of pretending to be scouts or highwaymen or bold bad barons, the future of our race will thereby be assured. I should have thought that cricket and football and the various other exercises which were sufficient training for the heroes of Waterloo and the Peninsular War, might still have found favour with patriots of the rising generation. But if the boys prefer to play at soldiers rather than to indulge in healthier and more manly games, there is perhaps no serious reason for complaint. Their race and breed will carry them through even greater ordeals than the sacrifice of national sports in favour of dreary drills and a carnage of tin soldiery. I only hope that you will not induce them to follow the example of your trumpeter Kipling, and restrict their energies to scouting butterflies and conducting punitive expeditions against birds' nests.

Now I come to the main count in the indictment against you, and I confess I find it very hard to restrain my indignation. The utmost that can be said in extenuation is, that having spent the greater part of your life among dependent and savage races, you have had no opportunity for observing the awful sufferings of continental nations under the blighting curse of conscription. You cannot be aware of the depredations wrought by that infernal system upon the manhood, upon the self-respect, upon the commerce, upon the very existence of a people. Heavy taxation is bad enough, but what shall we say of Governments which exact their toll in pounds of human flesh; which rob young men of the best years of their lives, and unfit them for peaceful avocations; which take sorely-needed bread-winners from the families of the starving poor, parting the bridegroom from his bride and the son from his widowed mother; which turn the sacred name of Liberty into a farce, the sanctity of the home into derision?

A Dangerous Dolt.

I have no doubt you are, in private life, a very pious and estimable old man. I can picture you spelling out your family prayers with extreme unction for the benefit of your men-servants and maid-servants, having happily put far away from your mind all the devastation of your armies, all the brave warriors whom you have hurried unprepared to the presence of their Maker. I can see you doling out jam and judicious advice to young sycophants with all the platitudinous emphasis of the Lord Avebury, or stuttering copy-book maxims in praise of obvious virtues. I can then concede to you the usefulness of the bore, who, as Talleyrand or somebody said, affords repose to the mind. But when you embark upon subjects which really matter, you become as great a menace to society as the Nihilist, or the Anarchist, or the Apache. Nay, you are an even greater menace, for your wooden, unimaginative mind appeals to all the stupid ones who form the great majority in every land.

Surely everyone with a grain of commonsense is aware that our little island can never produce sufficient armies to cope with continental legions. In the days when our soldiers fought and enlarged their vocabulary in Flanders, the enemy had not reached their present state of mechanical perfection, and, even then, we relied chiefly upon mercenaries, now no longer available. Moreover, we had that delectable old Tory institution, the press-gang, which you would doubtless like to revive. But now the conditions of warfare are altered. We have the best Navy in the world, and we may sleep very soundly at home so far as any fear of invasion is concerned. Again, even if the impossible happened and our fleets were defeated, no system of conscription, no arming of women and children with pop-guns or bows and arrows, would avail to repel the trained troops of Europe, swarming in upon us by the million. If England were suited to guerilla warfare there might be some sense in training us to be a nation of sharp-shooters. But we happen to possess roads and railways and convenient battlefields.

Hellification.

You probably know all this as well as anybody. But with all the sordid selfishness of the professional soldier, you are anxious that our generals shall cut a finer figure, enjoy the glory of larger retinues, prance about on parade-grounds in the presence of bloated battalions. Not satisfied with your garish uniforms and nodding plumes, medals, stars, and tinkling titles, all the fripperies of a fop and all the ribands of a prize bullock, you must needs seek to harness free-born Britons to the wheels of your triumphal car. Led away by the fulsome adulation of your cynical flatterers, you have almost come to believe that the British people are yearning to sing the coarse chorus of the scavenger Kipling:

"'E's the man that done us well,
An' we'll follow 'im to 'ell—
Won't we, Bobs?"

If we did follow you in your criminal conspiracy to impose the slavery of militarism, we should certainly reach the regions in question. But I trust that the verdict of the jury has convinced you that we will do nothing of the kind.

The sentence of the Court is and the Court doth award: That you be confined to barracks for the rest of your natural life, there to practise the goose-step or play with children and pop-guns and tin soldiers whenever symptoms of cacoethes loquendi or scribendi shall be apparent to your medical attendants. And may the Lord have mercy on your mind.

A GRAVE LUNACY SCANDAL.

A FAMOUS SURGEON'S EXPERIENCE.

We have from time to time directed attention to the very imperfect working of the Lunacy Acts. Not long ago we referred to the case of a lady then, as now, an inmate of a Wiltshire asylum, but who, there is every reason to believe, was sane when she was put there, and is sane even to-day after an enforced detention of years in its horrible surroundings. Since then we have had evidence from many quarters that the experience of this lady is that of others in all parts of the kingdom. The belief that this state of things existed some quarter of a century ago led to Parliament moving in the matter, and to its being made more difficult to incarcerate the sane than it was aforetime, but the changes in the law intended to checkmate conspirators against the freedom of others have not been sufficient to remove the abuse; and although it is a little more difficult nowadays to lock up your wife, or other person you may want to get out of the way, than it used to be, it is still easy enough for those who know how properly to go about it.

A Distinguished Doctor Confined for Weeks.

But, whilst men of the world have known of these abuses, it is generally assumed that only the comparatively helpless can be improperly confined in a lunatic asylum. A woman, naturally timid and unacquainted with the means of checkmating villainy, falls an easy victim; a man, without influential friends, and perhaps below the average of intelligence, is easily disposed of; but it has been supposed that it would be impossible to lock up a well-known man, able, distinguished, and of easy means. An instance that has just come to our knowledge shows that even this is too much to say, and that it is possible even to-day to confine in a lunatic asylum a person of distinguished position a d to keep him there for weeks before he can recover his liberty.

The gentleman to whom we are now referring is an operating surgeon of eminence, and in the week before he was sent to M—— Asylum, Middlesex, he had performed four operations which gave evidence of his exceptional skill. One was on a lady for cleft palate; another on Lord Zetland's trainer; a third for appendicitis; the fourth for removal of the gasserion ganglion. He was at the time the chief medical officer of two great railway companies and of one of the leading insurance companies. His name is closely associated with that of a very great institution, and our readers will take it from us that if we disclosed it—which for obvious reasons we do not at present—it would be admitted that he is in the front rank of his profession. But it is never well to over-state a case, and we are not concerned to deny that this eminent surgeon had to some extent played into the hands of those who secured his incarceration.

The Origin of It.

Only a few days before he was locked up, *i.e.*, in the latter half of November, 1906, he had been engaged in the Courts as witness in a surgical case. He had given evidence in support of the contention that a brother practitioner had fallen short of his duty in the conduct of a case. He had been severely badgered in cross-examination by Mr. Rufus Isaacs, and, being a sensitive man, the case had preyed upon his mind. After it was over he gave a dinner to certain friends more or less connected with it, and, being run down and worried, he drank a good deal more wine than was good for him. He left the hotel where the dinner took place and went down to his place in the country, some forty miles from London. He was still under the influence of the liquor he had drunk, and there can be little doubt that he was suffering from what is called alcoholic blood poisoning—a very unpleasant thing to suffer from, but it gives way to proper treatment. The surgeon knew quite well what was the matter with him, and desired to have a nurse sent down from London, and to be left in quiet for a day or two.

How It Was Done.

Unhappily, he could not rely upon the tactful, loving kindness of his wife on his behalf at this juncture. She had been persuaded that it was alike to his interest and her own that he should be taken away and confined in an asylum; and so, having relations and others ready to assist her, she obtained what is known as an "urgency order" for the reception of a private patient. We have this order before us. It is signed by a person who describes himself as "brother-in-law acting on the authority of his (the surgeon's) wife." It is addressed to the Resident Licensee of the Middlesex institution mentioned above. Having signed the order and filled it up as required, the brother-in-law went to a Justice for Middlesex specially appointed under the Lunacy Act, 1890, and, fortified by two medical certificates, induced the Justice to sign the order which authorised the licensee to detain the surgeon at M——. It was all quite simple. There was no real examination of the patient except by men who went to see him biassed by statements of those who wished to lock him up.

Cerebro-Spinal Fluid Normal.

Next evening a motor was brought to the surgeon's house, he was induced to get into it by a statement that the King had sent for him to perform an operation, and was driven rapidly to the asylum. He saw no doctor on arrival, but was received by a young man—a medical student of two years. He was shown into a bedroom where there were two beds, one for him and another for a burly attendant who was to sleep in the same room with him. In an ante-room there was another attendant, these two being his warders. He asked to see a doctor, but was informed that patients were not allowed to call a doctor after 8 p.m., it being then about 8.30. One of the attendants brought him a dose of medicine which he believed to contain sulphonal in warm milk. He refused to take it on the ground that it always disagreed with him, and that to take it would make him seriously ill. The attendant insisted, and threatened to gag him and force it down his throat unless he took it quietly. He then said, "Give it to me." The attendant did so, and he thereupon threw the contents of the glass into the faces of the two men. Almost immediately afterwards he was removed to a padded room where there was no mattress, but half-a-dozen rugs, upon which he had to sleep as best he could. In this room he remained some nine days. He was then taken out of it, and we gather that he does not complain of his after treatment in the asylum. In course of time he was able to communicate with some friends. After he had been in the asylum a couple of weeks a nerve specialist was called in with a view of tapping the spinal cord for removal of cerebro-spinal fluid for examination. The specialist reported that the fluid was quite normal, and so—accepting the sufficiency of the test—upset the diagnosis of general paralysis.

The state of the surgeon's mind a day or two after his incarceration may be gathered from a letter before us, written a fortnight after he reached the asylum, and from which we take the following:—

> Dr. P—— S——, a friend of T——, has just been down here and drawn off some cerebro-spinal fluid.
>
> He appeared pleased with the result of his experiment, and said he would telephone you on his return.
>
> I tell you candidly that unless you see Fred and George as soon as you can, and have a magistrate sent here, I shall take steps to get out of this inferno, even it it costs me my life.
>
> I was as sound as a bell when I came in here, though naturally furious with that dastardly trick played on me.

Finds Receiver Appointed.

Finally, after one month's incarceration, the surgeon was liberated under certificate "On leave of absence." He got out to find a receiver appointed to his estate, and to face what was not very far short of professional ruin. A surgeon who is detained in a lunatic asylum even for a month must be extraordinarily fortunate if, upon his return to free life, he finds himself with any patients to operate upon.

Such, very briefly told, is the story of the incarceration in a Middlesex lunatic asylum of one of the best-known surgeons of the day. During the whole of the time he was in the asylum he was not visited by a Commissioner of Lunacy. As he was there only about a month, it may, of course, be said that it would be impossible for the Commissioners to visit every asylum every month; but that only goes to strengthen the contention that it is still easy to incarcerate and keep in an asylum for a time men and women who are perfectly sane. We have no desire to suggest that the licensee violated the law. The necessary formalities required by the Lunacy Acts to authorise the admission of the patient had been observed, and the surgeon does not suggest that there was any unnecessary cruelty of which the licensee himself was cognisant. But he does say that, in his opinion, there were detained in the asylum many inmates who ought not to have been there. In his belief, this applies equally to the great majority of the private asylums of the Kingdom, where sane men and women are detained by interested and heartless relatives under conditions more likely to make them really mad than to cure any tendency towards insanity.

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MARRIAGE.

By Jim Crow.

[*We desire it to be distinctly understood that we do not identify ourselves with Mr. Crow's views on this or an. other question.*]

I can understand men marrying. But what puzzles me is that the fair sex should ever take the fatal plunge. I have been in Turkish baths, and know how repulsive most men appear, fat and hairy as a rule. Flabby, too. What an existence it must be to have to sit cheek by jowl with such an Ainu for the term of your natural life, or, at any rate, until death do make you into a merry widow. In the northern parts of Africa I have sometimes seen a woman and a donkey harnessed to the same plough. Even that must be a happier fate than to be perpetually yoked to an adipose, hairy, uncongenial fathead. At any rate, the woman and the four-legged ass presumably sleep in different sheds.

Horrid Husbands.

Fancy hearing the wretch snore, seeing him smear his beard with yolk of egg, enduring the smoke of his pipe, listening to his stupid and tyrannical injunctions, being expected to recognise him as lord and master! Women clamour for votes, and I wish they may get them. (Note the ambiguity of this aspiration!) But surely there are many things they need much more. Matrimonial equality would make a good cry. A rich, clever, business-like woman marries a poor, foolish, feckless wastrel. If she endeavours to check drunkenness and waste of money, she is told to mind her household or her babies. She is treated as a negligible quantity, and public opinion will bear out that treatment. If she runs the household, keeps creditors at bay, and pays out bailiffs from her savings, she only receives perfunctory thanks. If she takes an interest in dress or the drama, she is set down as a reprobate or a brainless doll. There is no satisfying the average husband. He will not stand a wet blanket, and he becomes jealous at once of a warm one.

Marriage Service and Servitude.

If I were a woman, I should begin to agitate for a reform of the marriage service. It is too bad to require a self-respecting female to vow that she will "obey, serve, love, honour, and keep" another mortal so long as they both shall live. The oath of service is no better than an acceptance of slavery; that of obedience involves a risk of law-breaking, and is incompatible with freedom of judgment; the most conscientious woman in the world will be incapable of continuing to honour a coward, or a traitor, or a black-leg, and why should she undertake to keep her husband? Surely it is his business to provide for her, particularly when she has voluntarily reduced herself to the status of his chattel. As a matter of fact, very few wives either love, honour, or obey, or serve their husbands. Nor is there any reason why they should be called upon to make solemn affirmation of utterly unattainable ideals.

The Immodesty of Marriage.

And why should a modest young woman be exposed to all the shame and humiliation involved in the publicity with which custom has surrounded a very delicate occasion? I always think that a modern wedding is not far removed from the coarse ceremonies of savage tribes. Look at the Prayer-book service with its frequent references to the procreation of children. Consider the crowds of jesting guests and the tumultuous demonstrations which attend the departure of a happy pair. The rice, the old shoes, what do they mean, pray?

Divorce.

Seeing that modern marriage presupposes impossible perfection, it is not surprising that divorces should be frequent. At the same time, divorce is only a remedy if we admit the theory that two blacks make a white. Marriage is not a mere contract to be dissolved so soon as one party has been untrue. The wife has undertaken to "keep only unto" her husband so long as they both shall live. The mere fact that he becomes cruel and unfaithful does not entitle her to a release. If we agree that divorce is a useful institution, we should provide for the possibility of it in the marriage service. Then, and then only, we should tolerate it in cases of crime, lunacy, habitual drunkenness, or incurable disease. If the object of marriage is only or even mainly the procreation of children, a marriage should be terminable so soon as it is clear that no children can be expected. This was recognised by Pope Gregory II., who was asked (A.D. 726) in what circumstances a man might have two wives. His reply was that, if a woman was prevented by illness from having children, her husband might marry another woman, provided he maintained the first one.

Marriage and Morals.

At the same time, I am all in favour of marriage. It certainly has a sobering and educational effect. If we glance through the statistics of crime, we shall see that a very large proportion of criminals are unmarried. The fact is that marriage induces prudence. A man reflects that he has others to care for beside himself, and his wife's influence is all on the side of caution, and gentleness, and diplomacy.

Fidelity.

At the same time marriage should be regarded as a game, in which the rules shall not be too severely enforced. For instance, it is physically impossible for a man and a woman who live together from year's end to year's end not to require some occasional relaxation. In order to secure perfect harmony and happiness, a husband and a wife ought to be allowed to flirt within reason. No doubt it would not do for them to embark upon wild passions, which would disturb the harmony of a household. But they should be encouraged to go to dances, and dinners, and theatres with their friends, so as to escape for a while the monotony of monogamy. An occasional kiss or hug or love-letter ought not to be grudged. And a very good safety-valve may be found in absolute separation during several weeks every year. Let the friendly couple pay a round of visits to different country-houses, or spend the month of August at different watering-places. When they come together again, they will be all the better friends, and all the more likely to endure the ordeal of humdrum married life more comfortably for the rest of the year.

Experience.

Good husbands and good wives are not born but made. Experience is necessary not only for satisfactory love-making but for the acquisition of the tact, diplomacy, and cunning which are essential to a happy home. There is therefore something to be said for the French plan, whereby a young man contracts a left-handed alliance which lasts until his parents have decided upon a suitable bride.

Marriages of Convenience.

There is also something to be said for the French practice of parental selection. Young people rarely know their own minds. They are attracted by the first comely face which encounters their gaze, and they very soon regret their precipitate choice. But when parents choose for them, they start with no illusions; they are accordingly spared disappointments, and, if they possess any common-sense, they soon accommodate themselves to a situation which they have not themselves created. It must be remembered that we do not choose our parents, brothers, and sisters. Yet most of us manage to tolerate them; some of us even regard them with affection.

Scientific Selection.

Of course one drawback of allowing parents to dictate about matrimony arises from the fact that they are usually guided to a great extent by considerations of coin. It would be much better if the selection depended upon physical suitability. When we marry a horse or a dog, we do not ask whether the prospective bride lives in a fine kennel or stable, nor do we consider the value of her collar. We follow certain natural laws, having made up our minds in advance what particular variety of breed we desire to obtain. Why should not the same thing be done in respect of the human race? That is probably what the Socialists will attempt if ever they obtain the upper hand, and of course I do not propose that any such tyrannical interference with personal liberty shall be introduced. But surely something might be done in this direction by voluntary effort. Let young people put aside foolish fancies about love, and have recourse to scientific books and elaborate calculations before making a proposal of marriage. Instead of saying, "Do you really love me, oh! delight of my heart?" let them reel off some such cross-examination as this, "What is your family history? Have any of your ancestors suffered from gout, phthisis, fits, catalepsy, lunacy, or habitual drunkenness? What is your chest expansion? What is the age of your grandmother?" If this tone were adopted, there would probably be fewer marriages but more successful ones.

By the way, I wonder what would happen if the Socialists had their way, and not only abolished marriage but issued a decree prohibiting doctors and storks from bringing any more children? Would some other kind of animal organise a new civilisation? If so, which?

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UPON THE TAPIS.

By WALTER MOORE.

DECLINING BIRTH-RATE.

Professor Cattell, the able editor of *Science* and of the *opular Science Monthly*, waxeth wroth on account of the discovery that the birth-rate in civilised countries is declining. Suppose it be, what on earth is there to be upset about? Can one imagine a more gentle and comfortable end for the human race than the gradual

ABOLITION OF BABIES?

I trow not. For, surely, if the end *must* come, as, according to science, come it must in some way or other, sooner or later, it were better for humanity to flicker out quietly, undisturbed by anxious considerations for posterity, than to be extinguished at one fell swoop by a general earthquake with molten fire, by the instantaneous ignition of the atmosphere, or by the sudden encroachment of arctic cold, as is prophesied severally by various savants.

It appears that the declining birth-rate is due to two main causes: the selfishness of civilised humanity in

AVOIDING PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY,

and an actual failure of reproductive power due to modern educational methods. Now, I am not in a position to speak with authority on either of these hypotheses; but as a plain man in the street I take the freedom to question whether the evasion of parental responsibility may justly be counted as selfishness. The issue is a clear one. Which is the more selfish, to bring heedlessly into the world an unlimited number of children, all of which, in the nature of things, must experience at least as much pain, sorrow, disappointment, and general vexation of spirit *as*, and probably less pleasure and felicity *than*, their parents; or, to realise candidly that this world is not such a delectable resort, and life not such an ecstacy long-drawn-out, that one should feel it a bounden duty to increase the population as far as lies in one's power?

If life were

ALL BEER AND SKITTLES

it would be another story. Then it would be the unquestioned obligation of every healthy married couple to introduce as many fresh members into the joyous company as possible, on the principle of "the more, the merrier."

I venture to assert that, were it possible for the unborn to view the whole course of their future life, and to have, at the same time, the option of taking it on or not, ninety-nine out of a hundred would refuse the opportunity. Don't, however, run away with the idea that I think the majority of people wish they had never been born. They don't. Neither do I. They find themselves here, and they are content to go through with it, be their luck good or bad. But I have small doubt that, with the exception of the select few, who will have

EXPERIENCE AT ANY PRICE,

nine-hundred and ninety-nine out of every thousand would, an they could, have missed the excursion provided they had foreseen what kind of a trip was ahead of them.

A declining birth-rate may be contrary to the laws of Nature and opposed to the principles of Theodore Roosevelt; but mankind has been opposing the laws of Nature for ages, otherwise we should still be running about in our native integument, patting our enemies—who, according to the laws of Nature, are everybody else!—on the head with stone hatchets.

* * * * *

A BIG PLANT.

Unless the country hardens its heart and refuses to hearken unto the words of the Royal Commission on Afforestation, a few more years will find us "warbling our native wood-notes wild." England is to be converted into a vast, impenetrable forest. Whether it will be composed of "Groves whose rich trees weep odorous gums and balm," to use the Miltonic phrase, I cannot say. At any rate, I hope not. If there is anything specially calculated to raise my dander, it would certainly be

GUM DROPS,

whether odorous or not, insinuating themselves down the back of my neck. To be caught in a shower of gum would be excessively annoying, to say the least; and I trust the Royal Commissioners will safeguard the community against any such possibility. To receive a drop of gum in the eye when one is pointing out the left leg of the Great Bear or the tail of the Little Dog to one's best girl would undoubtedly damp the astronomical ardour of the keenest star-gazer.

As might be expected, the cost of putting the afforestation scheme into operation is to be borne by the wretched taxpayer. As if finding the money for Old Age Pensions were not enough, he next will be required to find the interest on a loan of £2,000,000, increasing by £2,000,000 annually for forty years, by which time the interest will amount to something over £3,000,000 a year!

In forty years' time, when 9,000,000 acres of land have been planted with trees, the enterprise will probably begin to show a profit. But so far as I can see, in forty years time most of us will have been

TAXED OUT OF EXISTENCE!

Still, there is some comfort in the thought that, if any of us survive, *eighty* years hence the State will be in possession of property worth about £550,000,000, bringing in an annual profit of £17,500,000! We have all been

BORN TOO SOON.

Will posterity thank us when they gaze around upon the spreading forests of a transformed England, and find in the trees thereof not tongues, but a nice little round sum of 550 millions sterling? I don't think.

* * * * *

COURTING PARLOURS.

A minister at St. Louis has been the first to provide a long-felt want—a "courting parlour." His Reverence is to be congratulated on his happy thought.

At the same time, the "courting parlour" is rather a slight upon the parks, recreation grounds, and dimly-lighted side-streets of suburbia. Of the country I would say nothing. Young men and maidens who enjoy the privileges of a rural life would regard with proper scorn the idea of a "courting parlour" presided over by the watchful eye of some reverend gentleman.

But, for those "in cities pent," I must confess that a well-furnished "courting parlour," with an inside bolt and means for turning down the incandescent or switching off the electric, opens up wide possibilities.

WOMEN'S OFFICE DRESS.

The Association of Shorthand Writers and Typists is worrying itself about women's office dress. It seems to me that this manifestation of concern is superfluous. The ladies who do us the honour of listening to our stumbling dictation, and then kindly straighten out our grammatical entanglements on the typewriter, are very well able to settle that question for themselves individually.

But, if I may risk the inquiry, What *is* the most suitable attire for ladies engaged in clerical duties? Jim Crow has volunteered the opinion that a parchment shirt-waist with deckle-edged sleeves, engrossed with red ink, might fill the bill for what he profanely calls the top half of the female form divine; but that for the bottom section, something rather more opaque would be necessary—say, a good stout brown paper bound in red tape, with despatch box-pleating; the whole to be surmounted, he says, with a little foolscap. But there, he is incorrigible.

PERSONALITIES.—VI.

Said MacKenna, "This money I'm lending
In tons to the Navy for spending;
That the cruel foreign foe,
Wherever they go,
Will never by chance catch us bending!"

"KRUGER'S MILLIONS."

ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT PULLS OUR LEG.

Referring to the article published in our issue of January 16th, a correspondent writes to traverse some of its statements. According to him the facts are as follows:—

It is necessary in the first place to give a short recapitulation of the methods adopted by the late President Kruger's Government for the suppression of the illicit buying and selling of the gold won from the mines of Johannesburg. This illicit traffic at one time was so extensively carried on that the Government of the Transvaal was forced to employ a special staff of detectives to deal with it, and in order to do so the more effectually, a large number of men were granted special permits to enable them to purchase with immunity from prosecution any gold or amalgam which they had reason to believe had been acquired by dishonest means from the mineowners, when, such purchase having been made, the sellers would become marked men as illicit dealers, and would eventually be prosecuted. Unfortunately for the complete success of the idea, these permits were frequently issued to men who did not fail to take unlawful advantage of the powers thus vested in them. One such was a certain Patrick ——, one of the best known of the actual illicit dealers. He, probably scenting the possibility of a really big "steal" without any fear of unpleasant consequences, formulated a scheme for robbing the Government on a colossal scale. He interested a brother of a very well-known member of the Volksraad in the matter in order to obtain even more freedom of action than his official permit to buy gold conferred upon him, and eventually a small syndicate was formed for the purpose of carrying out the idea. Steadily and unostentatiously these men bought up illicit gold to the total amount of about 100,000 oz., representing nearly £400,000 if sold in the open market. Then, instead of accounting to the Government for this, it was carefully and secretly shipped out of the Transvaal to Delagoa Bay. Here all arrangements had been made for the secret and expeditious shipment of this valuable consignment.

An old vessel, the "Dorothea," which had for months previously been lying as almost an abandoned hulk on the mud of the harbour, had been brought up, and without disclosing their intentions, the syndicate had induced a pilot of Durban, by name Vibart, to superintend the process of fitting the "Dorothea" out for her voyage. Having supplied her with new rigging and hauled her off the mud into the stream, the gold was secretly conveyed aboard her and was embedded in a mass of cement in her forepeak, the ostensible reason for the use of the cement being that it would serve to stop the leaks in the hull, which could not otherwise have been caulked, without great loss of time and considerable expense. This done, the "Dorothea" sailed for Durban, Vibart being in command. There has been a certain amount of controversy as to whether the gold was ever put on board at all, many people holding that the syndicate were themselves robbed of their treasure *en route* between Johannesburg and Delagoa Bay; but in view of the fact that none of those employed in conveying it to the port were ever in affluent circumstances afterwards, this is most highly improbable, and it is almost certain that it was duly shipped as arranged. Whether this be so or not, however, it is absolutely certain that it at no time belonged, even in part, to the late President Kruger. Perhaps the cement in her forepeak, solid mass as it was, accentuated the "Dorothea's" unseaworthiness, for, falling in with bad weather, she became unmanageable about half way to Durban. The crew got away in boats, abandoning the ship to her fate, and were picked up by one of the Union Castle Line of steamers, if memory serves me right, the s.s. "Guelph," and taken to Durban; while the "Dorothea," left to her fate, drifted ashore on the coast of Zululand, just north of the entrance to St. Lucia Bay. This was in 1898, more than a year before the outbreak of the Boer War. As to whom the "prominent South African miner and prospector" referred to as Jim Benson may be, who is quoted as having originated the report as a practical joke for the purpose of scoring off a local newspaper man, I have no means of ascertaining. It seems far more likely that the "practical joke" is being played now, and in London.

CRUELTY TO PIT PONIES.

We have received the following letter from a Long Eaton correspondent:—

> I can fully bear out what "Mining Engineer" says in his reply in this week's issue *re* the above. I have lived in a coal-mining district of Lancashire for eight years, and have had good opportunities for inspecting a large number of pit ponies, and can honestly say that I have never seen better ponies. In fact, the best pony I ever had for business use came out of a pit in Lancashire.
>
> In the first place, owners of collieries give from £20 to £25 for their ponies, and that fact in itself goes to prove that they (the owners) would not have them illused.
>
> There are, no doubt, cases of cruelty, but then in what walk of life do we not find them? And it is unfair to judge the majority by one or two cases.

We think our correspondent has got the hang of it.

"Bottomley's Book" will be published immediately after the conclusion of the Guildhall proceedings in Rex. *v.* Bottomley.

MRS. CARRIE NATION MEETS JIM CROW.

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FEMININE FICTION.

By N. H.-D.

Mrs. Pinter walked up her front step with an air.

"Oh, good afternoon," she remarked to her next-door neighbour, Mrs. Cund.

"That you, Mrs. Pinter?" asked Mrs. Cund. "I'm jest buying a smoked 'addick for my ole man's tea. Bin shopping?"

"Oh no," replied Mrs. Pinter, carelessly; "I've bin to the pantermine. Quite tired out I feel, laughing so much."

"Wot was it?" inquired Mrs. Cund.

"Forty Thieves," answered Mrs. Pinter.

"Was it crowded?" asked Mrs. Cund.

"Packed full," answered Mrs. Pinter. "An' *didn't* I 'ave a time gitting in!" "Wen I got there, I see a pretty big crowd waiting at the gallery—not that I was going in the gallery meself. I jest *looked* at the crowd an' then went on to the pit. I stood there, an' thinking I saw a bit of a opening nearer the door I began to edge up to it—not with the idea of cheating, you know."

"Course not," said Mrs. Cund, "but everyone for their-selves."

"That's wot *I* say," said Mrs. Pinter. "Well, as I was gitting along beautiful, I 'appened to give a little push to someone quite by accident. 'I'm sorry,' I ses perlitely. ''Ere, 'oo are *you* shoving of?' ses she."

"Impident slut," interposed Mrs. Cund.

"Yes, wasn't she," said Mrs. Pinter. "Jest then the doors opened, an' we 'ad a fine ole squeeze to git in, but I got in before that woman. Very nice lady I sat next to, too; we got quite friendly together, an' she shared 'er Brazil nuts with me—'ad them ready cracked in a paper bag, she did, an 'a little penknife to dig out the nut—*so* genteel. You can alwis tell wen a person's bin brought up well."

"So you can," agreed Mrs. Cund, "an' wot you think of the pantermine?"

"*Fine*," answered Mrs. Pinter. "There was the fairy's dell with a lot of pretty little children running about dressed up in wings—one of them *did* remind me of my Janie—then there was the big 'all with the thieves in the jars, an' a forest—that was a grand scene that was."

"I rather fancied the 'All of Dimonds, meself," remarked Mrs. Cund.

"Why I didn't know you'd bin," said Mrs. Pinter.

"Oh yes," said Mrs. Cund, "I went last week."

"Well I never!" exclaimed Mrs. Pinter. "Fancy that now, an' didn't you think it grand?"

"Some parts was very good indeed," replied Mrs. Cund, judicially, "an' some parts was a bit poor."

"Now *I* thought that too," said Mrs. Pinter; "the transformation scene wasn't so good as last year, was it?"

"Not nearly so good," replied Mrs. Cund, "but the clown was better."

"*Wasn't* he comic?" said Mrs. Pinter.

Both women laughed as Mr. Cund came up.

"'Ullo," he said jovially, "you two are 'aving a nice little joke together, *I* don't think."

"We've bin torking about the pantermine," explained Mrs. Pinter; "I've bin this afternoon, an' your wife was telling me she went last week."

"Why——" said Mr. Cund.

"Yes, an' you sed you must try an' go yourself after wot I told you of it," said Mrs. Cund.

"You ought to go, reelly," chimed in Mrs. Pinter.

"Yes, but——" began Mr. Cund.

"*I* know, you want your tea," said Mrs. Cund with a laugh. "Orl alike, ain't they, Mrs. Pinter?" With which remark she bustled her husband indoors.

"I didn't know you'd bin to the pantermine," observed Mr. Cund.

"No more I ain't," replied his wife. "Wen I *do* go to a theatre I like to see a good play. You don't catch *me* at them pantermines."

"'Ow d'you know about it then?" asked Mr. Cund.

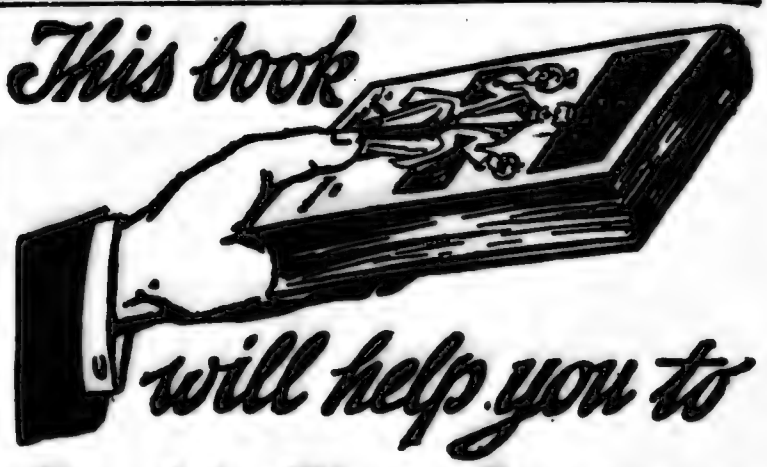
"I looked at the pictures an' read the bills outside the theatre enough to tork about it," answered Mrs. Cund.

"But wot do you *do* it for?" demanded Mr. Cund,

"Well you don't suppose I was going to let *that* woman crow over *me*, do you?" asked his wife.

Mr. Cund sat down to his tea.

"An' wimmin tork about their *minds*, an' want *votes*," he remarked.



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AMONG THE BOOKS.

By HERBERT VIVIAN.

"Get-Rich-Quick-Wallingford," by George Randolph Chester (Richards: 6s.), is described as "a cheerful account of the rise and fall of a business buccaneer." The buccaneer is certainly cheerful, at times quite amusing. His plan is to go to a town with a few dollars in his pocket and turn them into several thousands by some process of financial juggling, all of it quite legal—in America. Then he goes away and spends his money and begins again. Eventually he makes what a certain witness called "a little lapse," utterly forgetting to provide for a very small cheque when he had plenty of money in his possession. A rival takes advantage of this to get him locked up, and he is only rescued on the condition that he will restrict himself to humdrum operations in future. Whether he is likely to do so may be decided by readers of this lively book. Every now and then we have rather too much financial detail, and once or twice the author breaks out into a Yankee vernacular, which is not at all intelligible to an English reader. If the author is appealing to an English public, he would be well advised to insert footnotes in his next edition, explaining such jargon as "grouch," "on the cheaps," "I'm the goat! The original goat! Came clear out here to trim a sucker that looked good by mail, and have swallowed so much of that citric fruit that if I scrape myself my skin spurts lemon juice. Say, do I look like a come-on?" "Before I went dippy over two letter-heads and a nice round signature," and so forth. However, I must confess that I read the book with amusement.

"Aerial Warfare," by R. P. Hearne (Lane: 7s. 6d. net), notwithstanding an unnecessary introduction by Sir Hiram Maxim, is quite a pleasant book. There are plenty of pictures to illustrate the alleged development of this form of locomotion, and plain people have an excellent opportunity of acquiring more than a smattering on the subject. The only thing that still puzzles me is why it should be necessary to make an airship so enormous. When somebody invents one no bigger than a bicycle, the fun will begin. Meanwhile it is interesting to note that "the airship will always be a very cheap instrument, and the loss of one naval battleship, costing over £1,000,000, will take many airships, at £5,000 or £10,000, to balance it."

"Flashes from the Orient," by John Hazelhurst (Hazell, Watson and Viney: 1s. 6d.), is neither flashy nor Oriental. That well-known advertiser, Lord Roberts, is apostrophised as follows:—

> Of deadly foe did'st make a strong ally,
> Receive thou a great empire's just award
> For yet another mighty empire won,
> Which basks 'neath Virgo and a southern sun.

Next comes an ode "to the Chaffinch," and there are some lines "On a discarded hatbox."

"Bridge Reflections," by the Hon. Victor Bethell (Heinemann: 2s. 6d. net), as might be expected from this versatile author, is altogether charming. A number of ingenious bridge problems are worked out, and enable anyone with a rudimentary knowledge of the game to set out upon the high road towards proficiency.

"The Passer-By," by Prince Pierre Troubetzkoy (Richards: 6s.), is distinguished but dull. Everything is heavy, even the flirtation. The American characters are, however, quite lifelike, and I was struck by a dramatic soliloquy by a jealous husband:—

> He went to the tray, helped himself to a stiff high-ball, coughed, then bit a long cigar.
> "What is this gentleman after? . . . His proper place is in Washington. . . . He's got his work right there. . . . It shows you what a gentleman's work amounts to. . . . By Jingo, if that's what they call a gentleman, I'll be damned if I'll be one! . . . She'll be worse than the others. . . . Well, she couldn't be that. . . . She'll be no worse than the others. She'll make a home for Dagoes and Dutchmen. Much do I get of a home life! If she's got to see me, it's sighs and nerves, and not being 'understood.' Of course, she's got to be buttered thick, then she's 'understood.' Mighty easy to understand a woman for anybody who hasn't got to live with her. Ough! It makes me tired! . . . This Mr. Lore and the rest of them. . . . The Honourable Silvian Lore, damn him! They talked of books, the worse the better. Clean American literature wasn't good enough. God knows the stuff she read in those French novels! And what was there to talk about a book? . . . Enough damn nonsense!" He spoke aloud, and then he strained to concentrate his mind on the paper laying under his eyes.

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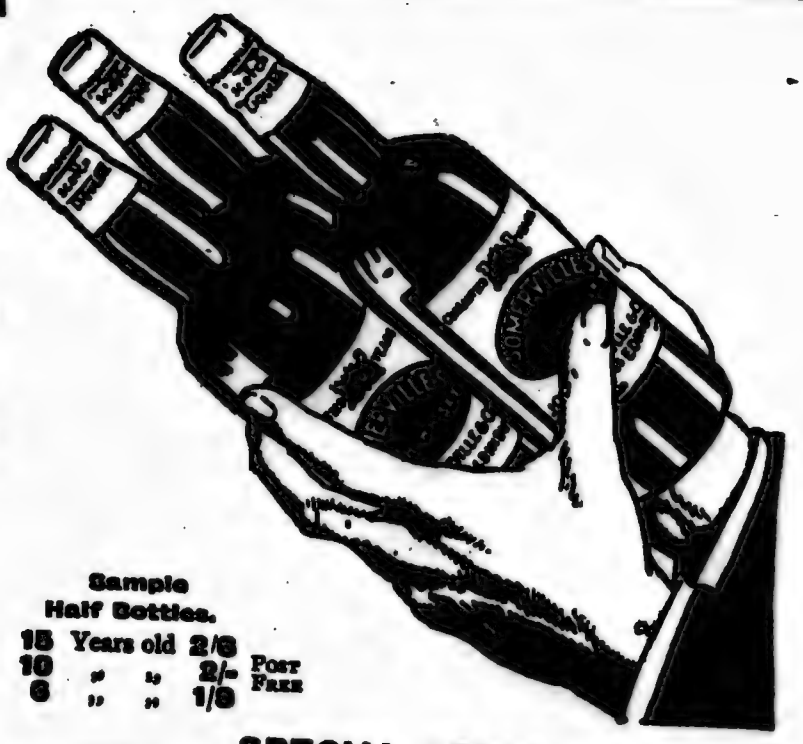

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AMONG THE LAWYERS.

MAGISTERIAL ENQUIRIES.

Is not it about time that the antiquated custom of subjecting defendants in criminal prosecutions to the ordeal of a preliminary magisterial investigation were put an end to? It was all very well in the old days, when committal for trial was something very different from what it is nowadays, and when the trial itself often involved several days' journey to attend the assizes. In these days, however, when for all practical purposes—at any rate in London—the criminal courts are always sitting, why should a person undergo practically two trials? True, the magistrate may dismiss the proceedings, but in that case it is reasonable to assume that a similar result would have ensued before a judge and jury—whilst, on the other hand, where a case is sent for trial the defendant has to choose between entirely reserving his defence—and in that case frequently subjecting himself to suspicion of guilt—or, on the other hand, disclosing his answer to the charges, and thus enabling an unscrupulous prosecutor to amend his case in important respects. And, now that we have a Court of Criminal Appeal, it is surely time that, except in cases of summary jurisdiction, the law were so altered as to enable a charge to go direct to a judge and jury—with full provision of payment of the defendant's costs where the proceedings are unsuccessful.

A STRANGE SENTENCE.

There are one or two points in the Hornsey manslaughter case, presided over by Mr. Justice Grantham, which seem to call for notice. It was proved in evidence against the prisoner, a man named Foster, that while driving a wagonette he ran over and killed a little girl, and then drove on without further notice until he was pulled up at Finchley by a motor car. If the driver of the motor car had run over the child, and then acted in a similar way, one can imagine the outcry which would have been raised throughout the country. The only excuse offered on behalf of Foster was that while in Africa he had contracted malaria, and it was suggested that in consequence he quickly loses his nerve. That explanation was apparently a little too thin for the jury, and after their verdict Mr. Justice Grantham said he "had great difficulty in deciding what to do." Having been traced by the motor car, and not being able to sneak out of the trouble, the man had paid £20 compensation to the parents for the loss of their child, and promised a further sum of £20 to a hospital. The only further punishment imposed was that of paying the costs of the prosecution and three days' imprisonment. It is somewhat difficult at times to get a correct view of a case from newspaper reports, and it may be that there were circumstances in this one which have not received adequate attention in the press, but on the face of these facts as we find them the sentence appears to require explanation.

A PIG ON THE HIGHWAY.

We have received the following letter from a Truro correspondent:—

> I shall be glad if you will write a slashing article condemning the judgment given in the enclosed report.
>
> It means that owners of pigs have a right to turn their pigs out on the highways to frighten my horses or upset your motor car. Lord Justice Moulton's remarks are sheer twaddle and quite unworthy of anyone versed in the law. Why are pigs taken to the pound and the owners fined for allowing them to stray?

We respectfully submit the question put by our correspondent to the Lord Justice. "Surely a sow has a right to go on the highway," says the Lord Justice, and "a man may sit by the roadside when he is tired. Why not a sow?" And if a sow, why not a horse, a sheep, or a cow? If Lord Justice Moulton's law is correct, and all sorts of animals have the right to graze on the highway, it will be news to most people.

MANCHESTER ASSIZES.

Manchester is complaining of the inadequacy of Assize arrangements as illustrated by what happened at the recent Autumn Assizes, and the Manchester Law Corporation have forwarded to the Town Clerk a copy of a communication addressed to the Lord Chancellor on the subject of Civil business at the Manchester Assizes. A similar letter has been written by the Liverpool Law Society. In the course of the Manchester communication, the statistics are given of the general course of the Assize business and its disposal. The following are the particulars:—Two causes referred to special or official referees, eight causes withdrawn, twenty-four causes tried, nine judgments by consent, one plaintiff withdrew, seven causes were made remanents, and one cause stood over to await result of an appeal in a similar case. It is obvious that sufficient time was not allowed for the work of the Assizes. The Judges had to be in Liverpool to commence the work there on the 7th December, and having regard to the Christmas vacation, there could be no chance of a Judge returning to Manchester to finish the Civil business. The state of things brought before the Lord Chancellor in the communication to which we are referring illustrates what happens when a heavy list of Causes is entered at Manchester, and is one that, in the interests of the public, urgently calls for a remedy.

LEGAL ANSWERS.

POSTMEN'S CHRISTMAS BOXES.—C. A. B. (Bexhill).—It is not illegal, nor is it against the regulations of the Postmaster-General, for postmen to call for Christmas boxes. This sort of thing is quite outside the Prevention of Corruption Act.

LOSS OF LUGGAGE.—H. F. (Clapham).—The railway company are liable for the loss of any articles of luggage entrusted to them, and you could recover the value in the County Court.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.—S. G. (Walthamstow).—The claimant must prove her age as well as she can, and the failure to produce evidence of birth can be got over by producing the best evidence of age that can be got. The Pension Committee has power to settle this question.

LOAN.—TROUBLED ONE (Plaistow).—Your best course is to bring a County Court action for the money and get judgment. That will prevent the debt running out of date.

MORTGAGE.—C. C. (Plaistow).—Unless the loan is secured when it is lent, the subsequent conveyance might be set aside in the event of bankruptcy. Money should not be borrowed from a woman under such conditions.

E. T. D. (New Quay).—As the accident was the direct result of the unwarrantable action of the tradesman, an action can be brought against him for damages, and he would be liable to heavy damages in the circumstances.

DRUNKEN FATHER.—B. S. (Cheapside).—This is the sort of case that there is not at present any means of dealing with, unless the man himself consents to be put under restraint. Drunkenness is a disease, but, as the law stands, anyone is entitled to his freedom whilst suffering from it. Your best course is to save what you can before the end comes.

RAILWAY CHARGES.—F. W. S. (Leeds).—If the railway company have no arrangements for delivering at the station at destination, they are not entitled to include such an item in their charge, and you will probably find that their charge does not comprise it. This is a very common thing. If you want to be sure, write to the Board of Trade and make your complaint, and ask them to ascertain whether the charge is correct.

LEGACY.—X. Y. Z. (Battersea).—If the legatee dies before the testator, the legacy lapses, and the estate will be dealt with as intestate, assuming that there was no other disposition. The children do not take.

CORONERS' JURIES.—DONCASTER.—The jurors are entitled to 1s. each.

PAYMENT OF RENT.—R. G. G. (Birmingham).—You are liable to pay rent to the person who is the actual owner, and until you receive notice of change you must continue to pay as before.

MARRIAGE.—W. B. (London).—A false statement as to age does not invalidate a marriage.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.—T. G. (Jersey).—A person living in the Channel Islands cannot claim an old age pension from the English Government, as the Act does not extend to those islands or to the Isle of Man.

CONSTANT READER (Slough.)—The joint income of man and wife must be divided by two to ascertain the minimum income, and as this would be £26 a year the man is entitled to claim a pension according to the scale

DISTRUSTFUL (Plymouth).—We think that the duty need not have been paid on the money in the bank, and you should claim its return from the Inland Revenue Commissioners.

LOST CHEQUE.—SPORTSMAN (Surrey).—If they asked you to send cheque and did not request you to mark it specially, they take the risk of the loss, as you did as desired. They cannot compel you to pay again.

TREES.—G. M. (Sheerness).—The tenant can be compelled to pay the value of the damage done by his removal or destruction of trees without the owner's permission.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.—E. T. (Selby).—The value of board and lodging can be assessed as part of the income of a claimant if he does not pay for it.

COLLECTOR'S COMMISSION.—GLEBE (Lincs.).—It seems to us that you paid the sum either in consideration of services rendered or not. If not, it was a loan, and can be recovered.

LEGACY.—R. H. W. (North Shields).—The dividend is not due until it is declared, and does not therefore pass to the estate, but goes to the legatee to whom the stock belonged at the time of the testator's death.

AGREEMENT OF SERVICE.—EXISTING (Fulham).—According to the latest decisions on the subject, it is doubtful if the Courts would enforce the conditions as to not entering other service where the employer has terminated the engagement. We should advise the employer to ignore the agreement.

REAL PROPERTY.—RETLAW.—The property goes to the husband for life, and after that to the eldest son. The husband cannot dispose of the property without the consent of the eldest son, who would have to convey his interest to make a valid title.

INSURANCE COUPONS.—E. V. C. (Sheffield).—In the event of death, the next-of-kin would be entitled to recover on both the diary and the newspaper coupons.

LOAN.—WROT (Hendon).—The lender has no remedy against the husband unless the wife was obliged to borrow for necessaries. He should repudiate the debt, and leave the lender to take his remedy.

LEGACY.—GIBRALTAR.—"A" is entitled to a half-share of the whole house, and his right to occupy the apartments came to an end with the death of "B."

WILL.—W. B. (Glasgow).—You should write to the Probate Office, Somerset House, London, and they will tell you what it will cost to have a copy of the will made. If persons not entitled to property have obtained wrongful possession of it, they can be compelled to give it up. It would be necessary to take proceedings in Chancery.

ARREST FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RATES.—JENKINS (Bargoed).—We cannot express any opinion on the matter, and advise you to discuss with the solicitor the question of bringing an action.

LIABILITY.—J. KING (Kennington).—You are not liable as widow, but, if there were assets in your husband's estate, you might be liable as executrix. The best thing is to try and let the place.

RENT OF SHOP.—CLAPTONIAN.—The agreement is good if made verbally, and you may be bound to carry it out.

RIGHT TO ARTICLES.—R. M. M. (Hurlingham).—"B" has no right to the specified articles, as the money was not expressly devoted to purchasing them.

MORTGAGE.—W. M. T. (Leeds).—We do not see any chance of your recovering anything, as the property will not sell for the mortgage money.

SLANDER OF TITLE.—DUNMACHIE (Milngavie).—You would have to engage in very costly legal proceedings to recover anything, and we advise you to put the case in the hands of one good lawyer, and let him carry it through. There is danger if you have a multitude of counsellors. You seem to have a good case.

INCOME TAX.—ZENDA (Surrey).—The law requires you to deduct the tax from the interest, and then you have to pay that over to the Inland Revenue. It is unearned income, and must be at 1s. in the £, and the relative must settle that with the surveyor. You must pay it whether you deduct it or not.

SOLICITOR'S COSTS.—D. B. (Tredegar).—The bill of costs is a debt due from the estate of the deceased, and must be paid by the executors.

PATENTS.—BIA BLANCA (Cardiff).—You can get provisional protection of a patent on payment of £1, but, unless you are skilled in drawing up legal documents, we should not advise you to do it yourself, as the validity of the patent will depend on the care with which the matter is described.

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OPEN LETTERS, POST-CARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To Lord Loreburn, Lord High Chancellor of England.

DEAR LORD BOB,—There are few people who owe more to their political party than you do, few who have done better out of it, and few who have so little acknowledged that principle of "the spoils to the victors" by means of which they have reached their pinnacle of influence and power. Do not mistake me, my lord. I do not want you to shine before all men as another Halsbury. But you have gone to the other extreme. Over and over again you have passed over able Liberals to give legal preferment to able Tories. Over and over again you have appointed Tory magistrates on the roll of the Peace when the Bench was already overwhelmingly Tory in composition. Now I see that my young friend, Mr. Agar-Robartes, M.P., has been telling his constituents that not one genuine working man in Cornwall had yet been appointed a magistrate through the J.P. Act of 1906. And lest you should not have noticed his further remarks, I shall draw your attention to them. "The claims of Liberals who had spent many years in public life were treated with contempt," said Mr. Agar-Robartes, "simply because the Lord Chancellor—the traitor in the Liberal camp—had refused to move."

The language is not couched in accents of tenderness, my lord, but the spirit, you will observe, is fervid and the flesh is not meek. I suppose that if the Premier had passed over your own claims you would have raised trouble. You have told us more than once that you will not use your high judicial office to serve the purposes of party. Pish, my noble lord, Pish! Nobody asks you to do anything of the kind. Play the game—and don't take yourself so seriously.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Walter Lionel Trippas, 250, Essex Road, Islington.

SIR,—I understand you are a bank messenger; also that you are sometimes engaged as a waiter at the Mansion House; likewise, having regard to the evidence given at the inquest on your wife and child, that you are a callous and disgusting blackguard. The jury returned a verdict that your wife poisoned the child and committed suicide in a fit of temporary insanity, "brought on by the continual brutal treatment of her husband."

Sir, I have not a doubt it was so. Morally, if not legally, those two deaths lie at your door. The witnesses were unanimous in declaring that the poor woman was a good wife to you. "No truer woman," said one of them, a Justice of the Peace, "ever came to my house." So much did she love you, spite of all, that she would not apply for an order of separation from you. "I would rather die than do that," she said. It was not that you beat her. It was not that you did not sometimes give her money. First you insulted and degraded her by insisting on bringing a dog into bed with you; then you systematically neglected her, staying away for weeks in the house of another woman, while the broken-hearted wife who loved you was gradually wasting away. "It was not money she wanted," said a witness, "but love and attention." She did not get either from you, and ended her misery by self-destruction. She would not leave even the child with you; she knew you too well. "My brain will not stand any more," were her last words. "God forgive him [that is you], and bring him to his senses. God knows all. The saddest wife that ever lived.—M. TRIPPAS."

"The saddest wife that ever lived." Think of it. Think of the young life slowly broken till a kindlier hand than yours touched her eyes to sleep that knows no waking. The day will come when that thought will haunt you as a ghost of the night; when, go where you will, and do as you will, you cannot escape from it. The mills of God grind slowly, Trippas, but they grind exceeding small. I cannot believe that you will wholly escape them. JOHN BULL.

To Sheriff Campbell, Dundee.

DEAR SHERRA',—I've long admired your lordship's fatherly ways, and laughed over your poacher homilies, but I am afraid you mixed up those verdicts the other week. A hound who lies in wait for defenceless women is a different beast altogether from that which takes a rabbit for dinner. "Eleeven shullin's or eleeven days" for six cases of indecent assault is a trifle off. Dae ye no hae sic a thing as a birch?

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Rev. Dr. Turner, Bishop of Islington.

MY LORD,—Addressing a meeting the other day in support of the restoration of the neighbouring Church of Holy Trinity, Kingsway, you are reported to have said "it was a most unworthy suggestion that the site, which was a valuable one, should be sold, and the church erected elsewhere." I am at a loss to understand the unworthiness of this business-like suggestion. It appears that recent excavations in the neighbourhood undermined this church, and the London County Council caused it to be closed as a dangerous structure. Since then the following amounts have been paid towards rebuilding: £1,500 from the L.C.C. and the Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway, and £1,500 from funds at the disposal of the Bishop of London. A further grant is hoped for from the Bishop of London's Fund, and that will still leave, we are told, £4,000 at least to be raised. I am not aware that all the other churches in the neighbourhood are filled to overflowing, and at a time when money could be spent with so much more advantage to humanity than in the erection of more or less unnecessary buildings, this seems a great expense. Is it not adding insult to injury to condemn as unworthy so practical a proposal as the sale of this valuable site to raise the rest of the money? The resident parishoners are mostly poor, and also mostly non-attendants at church. If, therefore, all this money *must* be spent on a building, why not go the cheapest way to work.

The ways of ecclesiastical personages are indeed, my lord, past finding out. There is a proverb about the coat and the cloth, which you might consider.

JOHN BULL.

To the Bench of Magistrates, Lindsey, Lincolnshire.

GENTLEMEN,—Some time ago I had to take the Grimsby county magistrates somewhat severely to task for what, from the humanity they have since shown in several cases, I am anxious to believe was a momentary lapse from merciful judgment. May I hope, gentlemen, that the manner in which you recently treated a homeless boy brought before you for begging, was due more to want of thought than want of heart? The age of the lad was 17, and when he was arrested he told the constable that he hoped he "would get six weeks, so as to be out of the cold." He was then, as the Chief Constable told you, practically naked and starving.

I should have thought that here was a case which might have been remanded to the workhouse while some of the charitable agencies of the county had been communicated with in the hope of saving this lad from entanglement in the human wreckage which bestrews our towns and cities everywhere. The view you took was not quite that. Like so many other men in the seat of magisterial judgment, you do not seem to grip any idea for dealing with a human problem except prison. Prison is your first idea and your last. It stands for your charity, your mercy, your justice, your Christianity, and your wisdom. You said "the kindest thing you could do was to send him for a month's hard labour. They would feed him in prison, at any rate." Why the kindest thing, gentlemen? It was about the worst thing you could have done.

When the lad has served his month, probably degraded by its atmosphere, he will still be destitute, still homeless, still needing bread. Once again he will beg, and if hard pushed to it, he may steal. Thus the life of crime beginning, where will it end? You may say that you are not a charitable society or a philanthropic institution. That is true. But you have a wide discretion. Now all that remains is for you to repair the error you have made by doing your utmost for him when he leaves the prison gates. You have made a gaol-bird of him. Now do your utmost to make him into a man.

JOHN BULL.

Dr. Jim, Cape Colony, South Africa.

Hear you have had enough of politics. Congratulations. Politics have had enough of you.

BULL.

John Smith, Undertaker, Bethnal Green.

Glad to hear your complaint in Westminster County Court that business very bad. Another "dying industry"?

BULL.

Haldane, War Office, Whitehall.

Tommy Atkins informs me you have just made big contract for supply American corned beef to Army. Confidence brand, I suppose?

BULL.

"ENOUGH OF THIS FOOLING."

WHAT "HOPE DEFERRED" MEANS TO THE UNEMPLOYED.

IN THE CITY.

THE CALICO PRINTERS' ASSOCIATION.

The interim financial statement of the Calico Printers' Association, published last week and covering the six months to December 31st last, discloses a disastrous state of affairs. For the corresponding period of 1905 there was a net profit (after paying debenture interest) of £171,818. In the corresponding half of 1906 it was £181,757. In 1907 it was £61,907. For the six months now under review there was no profit, but a net loss of £67,293. So that the Association has not only earned nothing towards a dividend on its preference shares; it has earned nothing with which to pay the current interest on its debentures, and the gross profits shown fall short of the modest sum set aside for depreciation, maintenance, upkeep and repairs. Here are the figures of the two last half-years:—

	Six months to Dec. 1908.	Dec. 1907.
	£	£
Gross trading profit	99,273	234,559
Depreciation and maintenance ...	102,566	108,652
Debenture interest	64,000	64,000
Net profit or loss	−67,293	†61,907
Brought forward	24,538	131,968
Carried forward	−42,755	†193,875

− Loss † Profit.

The depressed conditions of trade can hardly be accepted as a complete explanation of this disastrous contrast. The official statement says that the results would have been "less unsatisfactory if the changes referred to by the chairman at the annual meeting in September had been effected sooner." What is the explanation of the delay? The passing of the interim dividend on the cumulative preference shares, in spite of the existence of the revenue reserve fund of £275,000, is a pretty clear indication of the view taken by the board of the trading outlook.

THE IMPERIAL TOBACCO CO., LTD.

The profits of this company continue to increase in a remarkable degree. It has now a share capital of £15,500,000 in preference, preferred ordinary, and deferred ordinary shares, and, if the debenture stock is added, the capitalisation is over £17,500,000. Since the company was formed in 1901 the trading profits have steadily risen, and, whereas in the year following the company's inception they amounted to a little over £1,000,000, for the year ended October 31st last they exceeded £2,000,000. The results for the past year—*i.e.*, for the financial year ended October 31st, 1908—show a net trading profit of £2,065,616, as against £2,055,732 for the previous year. Not a large increase, but the fact that there is any increase at all in a year of such trade depression speaks much for the virility of the company.

THE MAYPOLE DAIRY COMPANY.

It is pleasant upon occasion to be able to direct attention to the position of a great joint-stock undertaking which has not only fulfilled its prospectus promises, but greatly exceeded them. This is the happy position of the Maypole Dairy Company. The company originated in Birmingham and in Manchester, being formed in 1898 to acquire the businesses carried on by Mr. George Jackson, of Birmingman, and Messrs. Watson Brothers, trading under the name of the Maypole Dairy Company, Limited, of Manchester. The prospectus pointed out that the profits of the two amalgamated businesses for the two years to July, 1898, amounted on an average to £61,400. Since the formation of the company the profits have averaged more than twice the prospectus figures, amounting to £132,000 per annum, and reaching last year £247,368, or an increase of £60,083 over the previous year. Congratulations all round.

PROTECTION ON COCOA.

We have received a letter from Messrs. Cadbury Brothers, in which, referring to their attitude with regard to the duty upon cocoa, which they think is misunderstood, they say they have never asked for protection. They go on to say:

> The duty on cocoa is raised for Revenue, and not for protective purposes. It is in the same category as the duty on tobacco, coffee, wines, etc. The duty differentiates between raw cocoa and manufactured cocoa, that upon raw cocoa being 1d. per lb. and that upon manufactured cocoa 2d. per lb. This difference is not primarily designed to give the home manufacturer an advantage, but to place him on an equality with the foreign competitor in the home market. In converting the raw material into manufactured goods there is a large loss resulting from the removal of imperfect beans, dust, outer husks, etc., and loss of weight in roasting. It is to allow for this wastage that the differential duty, as between the raw material and the manufactured product, is imposed. A similar differentiation exists in regard to tobacco, coffee, etc. On cigars double the duty is paid that is paid on unmanufactured tobacco, whilst on raw coffee the duty is 14s. per cwt., against 18s. 8d. per cwt. on roasted coffee. In each case there is a slight advantage to the British manufacturer. In the case of cocoa, it amounts to only 2 per cent., or something between one farthing and one halfpenny per lb.
>
> But even this advantage is counterbalanced by the absence of any rebate or drawback on exported cocoa. On every pound of manufactured cocoa we export we pay 1½d. duty, the ½d. representing the difference between a pound of raw cocoa and a pound of manufactured cocoa. By the absence of drawback the home manufacturer is handicapped to the extent of nearly 6 per cent. in comparison with his foreign competitor in neutral markets. In Holland, for example, there is no duty on raw imported cocoa; in France and Germany drawback is allowed on exported cocoa.

Messrs. Cadbury add that they have consistently advocated for many years the abolition of the duty on cocoa, as on other articles of food. Perhaps Mr. Lloyd George will bear this in mind.

BANK CLERKS' SALARIES.

We have received the following letter from a member of the staff of a provincial bank:—

> Your article on bank salaries, which appears in your issue of February 13th, may serve to draw attention to what you rightly describe as little short of a scandal, and we can only trust that the matter will not be left in its present unsatisfactory condition.
>
> A bank clerk wishing to expose matters of this kind obviously has to do so under a *nom-de-plume*, and by some this may be taken as a proof of insincerity and even untruthfulness.
>
> However that may be, the salary scale of this bank is divided into classes (apprentices, junior and senior clerks, cashiers, &c.), and under one heading appears the following: *Senior Clerks and Cashiers*—£100 to £150 per annum, followed by a note to the effect that at a *few* of the larger offices this maximum is extended to £200 per annum. This fully bears out your statement about cashiers receiving less than £150 per annum. Why, sir, in this one bank alone I could mention many men occupying responsible positions on less than £100 per annum, yet this same bank pays excessive dividends to its shareholders.
>
> There is another aspect of the matter—a clerk entering at age eighteen would, at age thirty, be receiving the princely sum of £150 per annum, provided he was lucky enough to get a £10 rise each year. Is this not an answer to the many critics of bank clerks and marriage? We have a rule to the effect that no clerk may marry unless his income is £150 per annum or over, and this might be read as "no bank clerk is allowed to marry until thirty years of age." What about the freedom of the subject some people talk so glibly about? Sweating is just as rampant among the joint-stock banks as among the slums of East London.

A HINT TO THE GOVERNMENT.

The following are resolutions just passed by the Alliance Assurance Company:—

> Resolved, that it be a regulation of the company to require from clerks entering the service of the company after the 1st day of March, 1909, an undertaking to join the Territorial Force and to attend the prescribed number of drills and the required amount of annual training in camp, the company to allow the clerks the necessary leave of absence from the office and to pay them their salaries in full during such absence.
>
> Resolved, further, that an effort be made to induce the company's existing clerks who are eligible to join the Force on the terms and conditions referred to.

Why cannot the Government act similarly, instead of throwing cold water upon recruits for the Territorial Army, haggling over the assistance to be given, and in no case allowing civil servants to serve without financial loss and sacrifice?

We have to acknowledge copy of "South Wales Coal and Iron Companies," published by the Business Statistics Publishing Co., Ltd. This little book has this year been considerably amplified. Each company is treated separately, and amongst the particulars will be found a list of the directors and secretaries of the various companies; the amount of capital and debentures, how they are secured, and their rights, the position of the collieries, the approximate annual output, average yield on ordinary shares over a number of years, a summary of last issued balance-sheet and profit and loss account, annual profits made, dividends paid, sums placed to depreciation, reserves and so on, during the last five to ten years. It is a most useful little publication for those interested in the South Wales coal and iron trade.

We have received the balance sheet and profit and loss account of Jeremiah Rotherham and Co., Ltd., for the year ended January 15th, 1909. The trading of the year shows a balance net profit of £40,016 5s. 6d., after providing for the dividend on the preference shares and 7 per cent. for the year upon the ordinary. A balance of £13,875 8s. is carried forward.

We have to acknowledge the thirty-ninth report of the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia, Ltd., which shows that during the year ended September 30th, 1908, 12,085 new policies were issued, assuring £3,090,227 5s. 8d., the largest amount of new business that has yet been transacted by the association in a single year, and exceeding the business of the previous year by £1,099 8s. The total income for the year was £97,611 9s. 9d. The total expenditure £569,511 5s. 4d., of which £407,168 11s. 7d. was paid to policy holders or their representatives.

NEW ISSUES.

Capsuloid Proprietaries Limited has been formed with a capital of £100,000 in shares of £1 each, of which 75,000 are now offered, for the purpose of taking over as a going concern the business of the Capsuloid Co., Ltd., and to develop two proprietary medicines. The vendors hand over a valuable goodwill, and Mr. W. H. Smith, Incorporated Accountant, certifies, first, that £101,000 has been spent in advertising the remedies in which the company is interested, and, next, that the average profits of the vendor company, after charging all working expenses, have averaged £10,500 per annum, or sufficient to pay 14 per cent. dividend on the total issued capital of the company.

The Dominion Oil Co., Ltd., has been formed with a capital of £120,000 to acquire certain oil bearing and oil producing lands in the well-known Tilbury and Romney Districts of Western Ontario, Canada. We direct attention to the particulars to be found on page 215. If the reports of two of the leading oil experts in Canada, who have inspected the company's properties, are to be relied upon, the shares represent a promising speculative purchase.

FINANCIAL ENQUIRIES.

THE NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE.—C. F. (Brighton).—You ask us whether, if you deal with this firm, we think you would get a fair run for your money. Since the collapse of the London and Paris Exchange, we have had several similar inquiries, and we have thought it desirable to look into the matter. Our opinion as to the unwisdom of the ordinary outsider risking his money in Stock Exchange gambling is well known, and need not be repeated. It is as true as that all the preaching imaginable will not prevent large numbers of people in this country from having a flutter now and again. If that be so, a service is done to them if they are advised where they can be sure of fair treatment, and the Gaming Act will not be pleaded if they happen to win. We have seen the proprietor of the National Share Exchange, and he has satisfied us that, if you want to gamble on the Stock Exchange, and you do so through his firm, you will be fairly treated. If you win, you will be paid, and, if you lose, you will do so, not through trickery, but because the market has gone against you.

KAFFIR CONSOLS.—In reply to several enquirers, we repeat our emphatic advice to sell—and to sell quickly.

HAMBURG LOTTERY.—OUT OF LUCK (Brixton).—So far as we know, the drawings are genuine enough, but the prizes never seem to come this way. J. E. (Earlsfield).—Have nothing to do with it.

VARIOUS SHARES.—S. O. (Brighton).—The Grand Trunks would, of course, have appreciated in value. The others we should sell

THE SOPHIA LOTTERY.—C. C. (Glasgow).—The fire is the place for the documents you send us

THE LONDON SCOTTISH STOCK EXCHANGE.—A. H. G. (Rookferry).—Our advice to you is to have nothing to do with the "magnificent opportunity to secure large profits," supposed to be offered to you by the Exchange.

THE AUSTRALIAN CITIES INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LIMITED.—T. G. B. (Harringay).—There are no quotations for them.

PRIVATE COMPANY.—REGULAR READER (Bow).—We do not understand your question. Try and make it plainer.

STANDING OF FIRM.—BONO (Cheapside).—The people you name are not of standing. If you want to arrange capital to work a business, you should go to a different class of firm.

PRICE OF PREMIUM BONDS.—G. B. C. (Burry Port).—The present price of these bonds is about £4 10s. 0d.

THE NEW ALBION GOLD MINING COMPANY.—CANTUAR (Canterbury).—We have no information respecting it.

ALUMINIUM CORPORATION.—T. W. (Glasgow).—On the whole, yes, if you are a substantial holder at present.

THE INSTITUTION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.—SECRETARY (London).—We are obliged to you for the papers you have sent us, and for the promise of your letter.

MIDLAND (LOZELLS) SKATING RINK, LIMITED.—FINAL (London).—We agree that the people most likely to find profit in this venture are the promoters, always assuming they get their £5,000.

AMERICAN GOLD MINING SHARES.—L. W. M. (Rugby).—The shares you name have no quotation in this country.

RAND ROODEPOORT GOLD MINING COMPANY.—W. N. (Chester Walk).—What is it you want to know about the company? Your letter does not say.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—BULLITE (Woking).—The people you mention are much the same as the others to whom we refer from time to time. Our advice to you is to have nothing to do with them.

SOUND INVESTMENT.—H. M. (Watlington).—All the stocks you name represent sound investments, and there is not much to choose between them. As to the prices, if you refer to the City page of any morning paper, you will find them.

SAFE INVESTMENT.—C. H. (Kennington).—We should prefer the building society. ALPHA (Abergavenny).—There is not much to choose between the stock of the two great railway companies you name. In our judgment the ordinary of the London and North-Western at its present quotation is a very attractive purchase.

CREDIT INDEX.—RELIABILITY (Portman Square).—We are not able to say whether the Gustav-Weisner named in the report is the same person as the proprietor of the Credit Index.

ACTION OF BUILDING SOCIETY.—M. T. C. (Birmingham).—If the facts are as you state them, you have a serious grievance against the society, but as to that we can express no opinion without seeing all the papers.

RAPHAEL TUCK AND SON, LIMITED.—J. G. K. (Leicester).—We should sell.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES SYNDICATE.—W. H. P. G. (Birmingham).—Do we understand you to say that you actually have the certificate? If so, give us its full name, and we will see what the market price is.

THE ROSE TUBE COMPANY, LIMITED.—RYFIELD (Huddersfield).—We will see if we can get the information you require.

MORTGAGE ON PROPERTY.—J. H. (Chiswick).—You should have no difficulty in getting it done through a leading insurance company.

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY.—G. F. M. (Bristol).—We regret that we cannot find room for your letter in which you criticise the reports and accounts of this company.

BIRKBECK BANK.—HOMO (Leicester).—We have nothing to recall or modify as to the strong position of the Birkbeck Bank. Your friend who refused to cash a cheque on the bank on the ground that "some time ago it went wrong," ought to be ashamed of himself. The financial position of the Birkbeck Bank is second to none in the Kingdom. F. W. (Birmingham).—No, it is not a Government Savings Bank.

INTERNATIONAL LUMBER AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (MEXICO).—ALPHA (Sunderland).—We have no information respecting this American concern.

FARROW'S BANK.—H. F. (Southend-on-Sea).—We should much prefer the Birkbeck Bank.

BEST BUILDING SOCIETY.—F. G. (Congleton).—One of the best of these societies is the Perpetual, of New Bridge Street, London, E.C.

SANTA CATALINA GOLD MINING COMPANY.—E. L. (Walthamstow).—The shares to which you refer are of no value.

LONDON AND PARIS EXCHANGE.—S. B. (Southampton).—You must accept the Official Receiver's statement for the present at any rate. We assume him to be correct in including you amongst the ordinary creditors. As to fraud in the transaction with you, we do not think you would be any gainer by pursuing the point. S. C. (Belfast).—We do not see what you can do. The Receiver cannot let you have the certificate if he has not got it. We fear you must take your chance with the rest. T. J. O'C. (Cork).—See previous answer, which is given in reply to a case identical with your own L. C. (Belfast).—Ditto.

SALISBURY BUILDINGS.—J. L. (Warrington).—We do not recommend you to increase your holding.

LONDON GENERAL OMNIBUS SHARES.—W. T. (Battersea).—It is a difficult question to answer. The company is in a very awkward position, but, on the whole, we think you had better hold on the chance of things improving, as they may do now the company's amalgamation with its chief rivals has been brought about. The trouble is that these omnibus companies are carrying the public at rates that leave no fair margin of profit

VARIOUS BONDS.—S. W. (Willesden Green).—(1) The bonds are genuine enough, but, buying them where you did, we have no doubt you paid 20 per cent. or 25 per cent. above the market value. (2) The Argentine investment is not one we should have recommended. (3) The Canadian Pacific stock represents a very sound purchase. (4) The British Colonial Petroleum Company shares are a very speculative purchase. (5) We will look into the brewery shares, and mention them next week.

"BONDHOLDERS' REGISTER."—W. B. P. (Southchurch), W. J. B. (Chorlton-cum-Hardy), A. P. W. (Ditto.), J. H. D. (Cardiff), C. H. (Bradford), G. W. F. (Bristol), A. L. (Aberdeen), and WEARY (Leeds).—You can obtain the paper you require from 2, Nicholas Passage, Lombard Street, London, E.C., price 6d. It is published on the second and fourth Tuesday in each month.

JAPANESE AND EASTERN CORPORATION, LIMITED.—A REGULAR SUBSCRIBER (South Hackney).—You should consult your solicitor as to the proper steps to take without delay.

RUDGE, WHITWORTH AND COMPANY.—G. G (Hove).—We have made careful enquiry into your statements, and find that you have no cause of complaint. The boot is on the other foot. You obtained the bicycle on the easy payment system by saying that you were of age—an untrue statement. On the Company discovering this, and informing you that they could not allow the contract to stand, but were willing to let you have the bicycle on the hire purchase system, you acquiesced, and, the necessary change in the agreement was made. After a time you sent back the machine to be repaired. The repairs were made, but it was pointed out to you that you were in arrears with your instalments, and that they must be paid before the machine could be returned to you. The Company is always ready to give time where a man is out of work, or for other good reason, and you were not entitled to their confidence, first, because you deceived them in the matter of age, and also because it was known to them that you were considerably in debt to other people. You did not pay up the arrears, and the machine was detained. You have only to pay them up to get it back. We are satisfied that the Company has acted in a straightforward way throughout the transaction, and we regret to say that we are unable to make the same remark to yourself.

INSURANCE ENQUIRIES.

THE CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—ENQUIRER (Beeston).—It is the oldest Colonial life office, and is of high standing.

STATUS OF INSURANCE COMPANY.—HIGHLANDER (Perth).—We cannot recommend it. E. R. (Braintree).—We cannot advise you to insure with the company you name.

ENDOWMENT POLICY FOR CHILD.—T. L. (Port Talbot).—Try the Sun.

A COLLECTING SOCIETY.—O. M. P. (Liverpool).—We cannot recommend you to continue your membership.

PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE COMPANY.—T. R. (Porth).—Your information agrees with our own.

MUTUAL NON-COMMISSION PAYING OFFICES.—CORPUS (Midlothian).—The Equitable Life Assurance Society, the Clergy Mutual Assurance Society, London Life Association, Limited, the Metropolitan Life Assurance Society. These four societies are the mutual non-commission paying offices to which you refer.

LIABILITY UPON POLICY.—E. W. (Eastbourne).—You do not mention the name of the company. We do not think it likely that in the circumstances they would attempt to enforce the payment, the policy never having been issued. But why be so foolish as to apply for one merely to oblige a friend, and when you were so hard pressed that you could not find money even for the first premium?

VICTORIA MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—G. H. (Camden Town).—The society's financial position seems sound, but the inability to obtain any considerable quantity of new business points to weakness somewhere.

BRITISH WIDOWS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.—A. E. K. (Bristol).—Our information is in accordance with your own as to the matter you mention.

INSURANCE OF MOTORISTS.—J. P. (Hastings).—The Legal and Commercial Insurance Company has just begun to issue motorists' legal indemnity policies. For a guinea per annum this policy will protect you should you be prosecuted for driving in a manner dangerous to the public, driving above the speed limit, or negligently. If number plates are accidentally lost or obscured, if licence is mislaid, or lights accidentally go out or become obscured, all you have to do is to take your policy to a solicitor in your district with whom arrangements have been made, and he will conduct your defence at the expense of the company, which will indemnify you against the costs incurred, but not fines

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—E. D. (Leeds).—If the facts are as you state them, you have been served a very dirty trick, but it is impossible for us, upon your mere *ex parte* statement, to express an opinion. You can, of course, be sued upon the I O U at any time, unless you have a written undertaking that payment shall not be demanded for a specified time. Assuming your version of the facts to be correct, your husband should see that a correct version of the affair reaches headquarters, otherwise his position may be seriously affected

SUNDRY INSURANCE OFFICES.—C. E. G. (Uxbridge Road).—Your list is a very good one, all being first-class offices. The best results are given by the Sun Life.

JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

By Mrs. Bull.

Peeresses in their Own Right.

The peerage of the late Lord Burton is peculiar inasmuch that in default of sons the title descends to his eldest daughter, who has now duly become Lady Burton. It seems curious that the majority of the peerages created in modern times will not admit of a man's daughter inheriting his title—if there is no male heir it becomes extinct—while peerages dating several centuries back are usually free from this restriction. This seems the more unreasonable when we remember that in the Middle Ages the lords of the land were expected to give personal service in war-time; nobody nowadays expects the owner of the Peerage of Burton to maintain a private troop of men-at-arms and lead them to battle for King and country. A lady can fulfil every function of a modern peer—doubtless, she could even take her seat in the House of Lords just as well as the brother she never had could have done. By the way, what would happen, I wonder, if one of these ladies whose title carries with it a right to a seat in the Upper House—Lady Burton, the Countess of Cromartie, Lady Amherst of Hackney for example—were to turn up at St. Stephen's and seek to take her hereditary seat?

No doubt most men would infinitely prefer to think of their title living in the person of their own daughter, rather than ending in the chilly vault with themselves, or wandering away to an unknown male relative. Sometimes, of course, the title may become merged by the marriage of the heiress with another peer—witness the Duchess of Norfolk, who is Lady Herries in her own right. This can be got over by arranging that the second son of the marriage shall succeed to the submerged title, as was actually done in the case of the Prince Consort's children. Had he outlived his brother he would have become Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, so this title in due course descended to his second son—the present King's next brother. Assuredly, it must be very galling to a race-proud girl to feel that it is her sex that causes the extinction of an honoured title.

The Revival of Paniers.

The very word "panier" looks strange and unfamiliar, for so many years has this type of skirt decoration been out of fashion. It is, of course, my youthful sisters, material folded or gauged, or tucked loosely over the hips. Well, the very latest whisper from the world of Fashion is that paniers are coming in again. If so, it will be very far ahead still. Beyond a shadow of doubt, the clinging Directoire gown will reign supreme throughout the coming season. The chief aim and object of both corset-maker and costumier is to render smart ladies as devoid of figure as possible. Even a full bust is not fashionable while the more slight and shapeless below the waist we contrive to appear, the better pleased we are with ourselves. And the wonderful thing is that our adaptable forms seem able to accommodate themselves to our ambitions—so many bean-stalks of women have surely never existed at one given period since the world began. Now paniers, with their simulation of ample hips, are the very opposite of all this. English women do not rush rapidly into extremes, so we need not yet begin to mentally design gowns with paniers for ourselves. However, it is just as well to be prepared for what the future may bring forth.

Millinery for the Riviera.

The South of France, with its kindly warm climate, is the place *par excellence* for escaping the chills and fogs of English winter; it is likewise the elect spot where the Fashions of the coming season first show themselves—and which of these two points is its chief attraction, who can say? The leading Parisian shops are showing—in the amusing semi-secret manner that characterises the most exclusive French establishments—some really charming and original hats for the sunny South. It is still somewhat early to prophesy with any degree of assurance, but it seems certain that millinery of a fresh type altogether is to oust all the winter styles. For one thing, the day of the huge "Merry Widow" *chapeau* is past—all the newest models are of delightfully sensible proportions—not too large and not too small. Another thing is that hats made with *bandeaux* are "going out." No longer are our hats to sit up on the top of our heads—they are to have large crowns, and come well and comfortably down upon the hair. To eyes accustomed to other things, this well-set-on millinery may appear somewhat dowdy at first, but we shall become reconciled, and wonder how we ever consented to appear in such a fly-away looking object as a hat jauntily mounted on a high *bandeau*. Bonnets—the sweetly pretty modified motor bonnets—are growing even more popular. The frame to the face and the softening effect of the strings, being so universally becoming for old and young alike, makes it a wonder that this type of headgear has been unseen for so many years.

"Bottomley's Book" will be published immediately after the conclusion of the Guildhall proceedings in Rex *v.* Bottomley.

FOR

BILIOUSNESS

The way to cure biliousness is to set your liver in order, and your stomach too; and that you can easily do by means of Mother Seigel's Syrup Tablets, the true remedy for all stomach troubles.

INDIGESTION

These tablets are simply a convenient form of the world-famous Mother Seigel's Syrup, and purely herbal. They act directly on the stomach and digestive organs, quickly restoring them to natural action.

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That is why they always cure biliousness, indigestion, dizziness, sick headache, flatulence, palpitation, distress after eating, lost appetite, constipation, and all disorders of the digestive system—stomach, liver, and bowels.

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SYRUP TABLETS

ARE THE NATURAL AND SURE CURE

2/9 per bottle—one size only.

THE SYRUP IS SOLD AS USUAL.

WHY NOT?

WHY NOT LET THE CYCLE DO IT?

The Sunbeam is still the *only* Bicycle which has a proper system of Automatic Lubrication.

Why do Riders waste their power driving round dirty and badly lubricated Chains and Driving Bearings?—Why not let the Cycle keep these Clean?—Why not let the Cycle *itself* oil these Parts?

Think of the Power you waste and the Time you spend doing Work that the Cycle ITSELF will do for you—IF it is a Sunbeam—IF it has the Little Oil Bath.

J. Marston Ltd.—21, Sunbeamland—Wolverhampton—send the 1909 Sunbeam Cycle List free on application.

AMONG THE MUMMERS.

MISS VIOLET.

The manager responsible for Mrs. Nation's London *fiasco*, and the appearance of Miss Violet Charlesworth at some London halls (a pitiable spectacle), says "there is a demand on the part of the public to see such turns," and he considers it "the business of amusement providers to meet such a demand." There are two old sayings worthy of remembrance by all entertainment managers. One of them is, "One never knows," and the other is, "You can't be too careful." Where is this exhibition of mere notoriety to stop? The Variety Artistes Federation, I observe, think that it is already played out. I hope so.

STAGE PROPAGANDA.

Mr. William Archer, lecturing the other day, patted the recent British drama on the back and said many nice things about it. Far be it from me to argue that they are not deserved—more or less. Still—leaving out the musical plays, which Mr. Archer does not take into account when he speaks of "The English Drama," although they are most of it and the best of it (with rare exceptions)—one may excusably be a little surprised at the daily raves of eulogy that are won by some of the pieces submitted at our West End theatres. Nearly all the critics slopped over about "An Englishman's Home," which is tenth-rate melodrama and twentieth-rate farce, tied together by astute stage-management and just saved by good acting. This, apart from its "regular" caddish tone of patronage toward the Volunteers, whose officers possessed more brains to the square inch than the Guards' officers to the square mile. However, the Du Maurier play is a propagandist tract, not a play at all; and it needs a man of genius to make propaganda attractive on the stage to people who do not think with their whiskers. The various Protectionist and Free Trade plays, judged from the specimens I have seen (the latest written is "Tried for Her Life," price 6d. per copy), ought to be suppressed by law, as calculated to weaken the mental and moral fibre of those sections of the community that can be lured into halls and theatres to see them, or induced to read them. Despite the contentions of those who welcomed "An Englishman's Home" because it showed that the stage has possibilities in the treatment of serious questions of the day, I venture to believe that this pro-military nonsense will fail to fulfil the prophecies of the Conscription Press. It went up like a rocket; I fancy it will drop like the stick it is.

BED-ROOMS AND GUINEA-PIGS.

Our people go to the theatre when they are tired, for entertainment; and that is the only use, until we grow some new and more gifted dramatists, to which the theatre in England can be put for fifty-one out of fifty-two weeks in the year. The poverty of idea that marks most of our playwrights is evident from the latest piece staged at the Kingsway. Miss Ashwell is looking out for "fresh talent." Yet she presents a melodrama in which we have such startling novelties as a bed-room scene; a heroine who has a past, and covers the villain with a revolver partly to conceal that past and partly to prevent the villain from eloping with her innocent friend; a knowing and talkative kid, and—a guinea-pig between the sheets! This is the third bed-room in two years at the Kingsway, and although I have no inherited prejudice against bed-rooms, nor ladies in pretty nightgowns, I am compelled to say, "Really, Miss Ashwell!" For the rest, Mr. Wilfred T. Coleby's play is bright and amusing enough. It is only when I am asked to look with the eye of a thinker on the theological and other intellectual tripe and onions with which its entertaining features are served that I am inclined to grin.

MARVELLOUS!

One of those ingenious persons who does such things has been finding out what animals earn on the variety stage. It seems that a monkey now appearing in Germany has refused to go to America for less than £300 a week. It prefers Europe at £100. And yet folk are still boggling over the Darwinian doctrine that the apes and ourselves had a common origin and that our Simian second cousin has his points. Besides, America already has Lauder and Roosevelt to amuse it.

P.

RUBBER HEELS
Counsel: If they are the PENNA they are the BEST!
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THE KING AND RADIUM.

HOW ITS EXTRAORDINARY CURATIVE POWER IS ALREADY BEING SUCCESSFULLY EMPLOYED IN ENGLAND.

Extraordinary stories of the curative power of Radium have been recently circulated, and the announcement of His Majesty the King's interest in the foundation of a Radium Institute for Medical Research has intensified the already deep public interest in the subject.

An eminent London surgeon has pointed out that at present Radium is only available in exceedingly small quantities, the Austrian Government, recognising its priceless value, having forbidden its export.

Fortunately, Dr. Saubermann, the renowned Berlin scientist, obtained the last supply prior to the decree forbidding the exportation of Radium, and after many experiments he discovered a preparation which has been given the name of "Radium Salve," because it is in the form of a salve.

The "Daily Mail," in its issue of the 30th ult., in a report of cases treated by Radium at the Paris Institute, says:—"Out of sixty-eight cases of extraneous cancer sixty-four cures, I was informed, have been effected by Radium during the three years of the institute's existence, and in a large number of cases cancers which could not be operated upon have been transformed into a condition in which operation is possible. Vascular tumours of great size have been cured, port-wine stains and tenacious scars have been removed, and over a thousand birth-marks have been successfully treated. Cures have also been effected of chronic rheumatism, chronic eczema, and tuberculosis."

There is now a large supply of Radium Salve in London at the Cardinal Manufacturing Company's Offices, 1-5, Wilson Street, E.C. The price is fortunately within the reach of all, pots of various strengths being obtainable at 5s., 10s., 20s., and 30s. Dr. Saubermann's "Radium Salve" and its wonderful powers are fully described in an interesting treatise, a copy of which will be sent gratis on application to anyone interested in learning how to employ the "Salve" for the cure of any of the following diseases: Cancer Growths, Lupus, Scrofula, Glandular Swellings, Diseased Ankles, Diseased Hips, Bad Legs, Festering Sores, Running Sores, Poisoned Cuts, Old Wounds, Eczema, Ulcers, Boils, Ringworm, Psoriasis (tetter), Abscesses, Carbuncles, Barber's Itch, Scalp Sores, Bed Sores, Salt-water Sores, Swollen Knees, Sprains, Strains, Scabies, and all Diseases of the Skin, Wrinkles, Lines, and Crowsfeet, Rheumatism, Lumbago, and Sciatica.

The preparation, says the author of the treatise, is a scientific salve, with which Radium is blended in a certain exact proportion. Its effect is of an intensely healing character. The new life imbibed by the cells imparts itself gradually to the deeper portions of the skin, and the latter becomes regenerated by the Radium rays. The skin becomes smooth and rosy, and the fine blood-vessels on the surface fill up with pure blood, imparting to the skin a fresh and healthy colour. The germs of disease are destroyed, and the tissues healed and invigorated in a wonderful manner. By the application of the strongest (30s.) preparation Birth-marks and port-wine stains are permanently removed, new and normal flesh tissue gradually replacing the defective and disfigured tissue.

Interesting descriptive treatise is sent free on receipt of stamped addressed envelope.

Dr. Saubermann's Radium Salve may be obtained from the Cardinal Manufacturing Co. (Dept. J.B. 4) (Manufacturing Chemists to the Medical Profession), 1 to 5, Wilson Street, Finsbury, London, E.C.

TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

To afford the entire medical profession an opportunity of testing the unique curative properties of Dr. Saubermann's Radium Salve, the Cardinal Manufacturing Co. will send a sample pot without charge to any qualified physician (whose name is on the Medical Register) on receipt of stamped addressed envelope.—[ADVT.]

The Largest Watch-sales Firm in the World.

BRITISH

Here is a reduced illustration of J. G. GRAVES' "EXPRESS" £2 10 0 English Lever £2 10 0

showing the distinctive features which have won for this splendid watch a world-wide reputation. The Cases are Massive Sterling Silver, full size; the Movement contains the genuine Chronometer Balance, reversing centre pinion, Breque hairspring, and a close-fitting damp & dust-proof cap. The "Express" costs twice as much as a cheap foreign imitation, but it's 'Ten times better,' and to induce our fellow countrymen to prefer a Genuine English Lever, we have made the most remarkably Easy Terms ever known for the sale of a *bona fide* English Watch. We deliver the "Express" for 5/- and your promise of nine monthly payments of 5/-. Satisfaction or cash refunded. 5/- in the £ Cash Discount.

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CATALOGUE Ask for Catalogue B. Watches, Rings, Jewellery, Clocks, and Fancy Goods.

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7 YEARS WARRANTY

Comfortable Chins.

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Of all Chemists, 1s. Send 2d. for sample to
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BLACKPOOL RUFFIANISM.

Recently a Manchester clergyman wrote some rather pungent strictures in his parish magazine on what he described as the rough manners of Lancashire people. We said at the time that they would not be very acceptable to those hard-headed and enterprising countrymen, but we went on to instance the sort of manners and customs one finds in Blackpool during the Lancashire "wakes." Now the fat is in the fire, a hornet's nest is raised about our ears, there is tumult in the dovecote, and the Blackpool editors and lodging-house keepers are shying brickbats at us. We are told we know nothing of Blackpool, that we have probably never been near the place, and that we are frightening people away. As a matter of fact, we know a very great deal of Blackpool—of Blackpool in sun, and rain, and when the stormy winds do blow—of Blackpool in spring, summer, autumn, and winter; know it as a hen knows its chickens, and though we are unable to apologise, we are willing to say "Heaven bless Blackpool." Its tonic air is worth a guinea a breath.

But let Blackpool editors and lodging-house keepers protest as they will, facts are stubborn things. Why do the residents of Blackpool advise their friends not to come till all the "wakes" are over; or before they commence? Why has Blackpool so bad a reputation for its pushing and ill-mannered crowds? Let us take one or two specific instances. In August last, in broad daylight, a man trod on a lady's dress, and tore almost a yard of it away. He was well aware what he had done, for his attention was called to the fact. His apology was to leer, and shuffle away. Another day, two ladies were seated in a motor brougham, waiting outside the Metropole for some friends. Two or three men came by, thrust their heads into the open window, glared rudely, and went away laughing. One evening, a South of England visitor had taken shelter, with hundreds of others, from the rain on one of the piers. A man came rushing through the people already in possession of the shelter, knocked over a lady, and pushed a cigar almost down the visitor's mouth with not so much as a "Sorry!" for his violence. These are typical, rather than isolated, instances of manners and customs too frequently observable at holiday seasons in Blackpool, and they have done much to injure the town in the eyes of Southern folk. To deny facts is not to get rid of them. Reading between the lines of the Blackpool papers, we are almost persuaded that their editors agree with all we said, though it would be too much to expect them to admit it.

BALLAD OF BEVERAGES.

"Adam's Ale" we are better without.
Through the microscope who has not spied
Animalculæ waiting about
Down the throats of the heedless to glide?
Tea and coffee the honours divide
As a spur to mortality's brink,
And the cry has gone out far and wide;
What on earth is there left us to drink?

In the juice of the grape lurks the gout,
("With a legion of evils beside")
Hear the rabid teetotaler shout—
Ever yearning his hobby to ride).
And the brews that the world once defied
Into chemical mysteries sink.
Even whisky askance has been eyed.
What on earth is there left us to drink?

Over milk hangs the shadow of doubt,
And in cocoa dark perils abide.
Every temperance-drink that comes out
Is with gastric emotion allied.
From ingenuous compounds that hide
Drug and physic, the prudent will shrink,
Though with luring advertisements plied.
What on earth is there left us to drink?

ENVOI.

Times have altered, my liege, since our pride
Was in good beef and beer. Do you think
That our sturdy old forbears had cried;
"What on earth is there left us to drink?"

F. G. W.

"Bottomley's Book" will be published immediately after the conclusion of the Guildhall proceedings in Rex *v.* Bottomley.

The Electric Cure is Popular.

As Pleasant as it is Effective.

It is grand to put on an electric battery while lying down resting, and feel its exhilarating influence in every nerve and muscle. There is no inconvenience attached to it in any way. One hour's daily application is sufficient. There is not the slightest shock or irritation, but a gentle, soothing warmth that goes direct to the nerve centres. That kind of electricity cures, and the cure it gives is permanent.

People will sometimes try an ordinary battery (made, no doubt, for commercial purposes), or a shocking-current, which irritates the nerves, and conclude that electricity is not suitable. It will not do any good in that form. The current must be given without shock—without irritation of any kind—and in this way the very weakest individuals can be built up.

No person is too weak to use electricity. In such cases a longer building-up process is required. But the results are just as certain as water is to extinguish a fire when applied in sufficient quantities. If a proper battery is used, it is possible to supply a very strong current, free from all inconveniences.

How much more pleasant it is to be cured in this way, while resting, than to be pouring medicine into the poor, weakened stomach, until it is impossible to do without it. This drug habit grows on one, like the whisky habit; and no wonder, as alcohol forms the chief ingredient of many preparations. It is simply adding more poison to the weakened organs. Why not stop it?

Rheumatic sufferers, those crippled with Lumbago, Sciatica, or Gout; the victim of weakened Stomach, Kidney, Liver, Bowels, or Bladder; the person with the shattered Nervous System, and suffering from Paralysis, Epilepsy, Neurasthenia, Insomnia, Neuralgia, or Heart Trouble, should seek a restoration of health in the electric cure. Don't say—"It might not do me any good!" It will do you good, if you resort to the right means. It will cure you.

There is a book for free distribution among all readers of John Bull which covers this subject fully. You should not be without it if you are not in possession of perfect health. It tells the cause of weakness and disease, and how a cure can be gained. It describes the most successful remedy known—the "Ajax" Dry-Cell Body Battery. The history of many cases is sent with the book. It costs you nothing to get it.

It is not an exaggeration to say that electricity is doing more to-day for human ailments than any remedy known. The users of the "Ajax" Battery universally endorse it. Mrs. A. J. Powell, 161, Colwick Road, Nottingham, says:—

"I have derived great benefit from the use of the battery and shall recommend it wherever I can." A report from Mr. B. Day, 20, Stamer Street, Stoke-on-Trent, is most encouraging:—"I feel much better, and the weakness is entirely gone. The battery is as good as new." Mr. John W. Robertson, Ittingstone, Huntly, N.B., is also grateful:—"I must say that your battery has done me a world of good. I am a great deal stronger in every way."

At the recent International Exhibition in London the "Ajax" Battery secured the Grand Prix with Gold Medal. The award was issued by the special medical section of the Exhibition, and endorses the system of applying electricity as well as the battery. This is the only electric treatment to secure such an honour. It is also supported by the *Science Siftings* Certificate of Merit.

Write at once to The British Electric Institute (Dept. 41), 25, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C., and you will receive by return post the most valuable book ever published on the subject. It is sent in a plain, sealed envelope. If near enough to call, please come and test the power of electricity free.—[Advt.]

"T.P.'s Weekly" Correspondence College

has been founded to help those who are ambitious to make the most of their opportunities of self-culture and self-education. It gives to the busy worker and to the student whose means are small all the advantages of individual tuition, and places at his disposal experience that he cannot otherwise acquire.

All earnest and aspiring men and women have at some time or another planned for themselves a course of self-culture. They have started full of hope and enthusiasm, determined to make the most of themselves, but after a brief period of spasmodic effort they are conscious that they have made but little headway. The explanation is not far to seek. This sense of frustration is due to no lack of earnestness, or intelligence, or industry. The "self-helping" student has very probably attempted too much. The books or subjects he has chosen have not been suitable. He has met difficulties he could not solve, and his misdirected efforts have weakened his will. He needs a helping hand.

The special object of "T.P.'s WEEKLY" Correspondence College is to offer such a helping hand to all who are intent on self-improvement. There is much to be learnt, and so little time in which to learn it. And, of all educational tragedies, none is so great as that of misdirected effort.

The "T.P.'s WEEKLY" Correspondence College is intended for the service of those who will welcome the opportunity of self-education, but need guidance as to the best direction in which to devote their efforts. **It is intended to help those who feel they have ability and are ambitious to make the most of their opportunities.**

It is intended to provide lessons drawn out on sound lines, and therefore best calculated to **save the student the inevitable disappointment that follows misdirected efforts; to save the beginner years of delay by placing at his disposal experience that he cannot otherwise acquire.**

THE COURSES.

This, then, is the object Mr. T. P. O'Connor and those he has called in to assist him have set before them in organising the "T.P.'s WEEKLY" Correspondence College.

The courses which are now available for students are

1. **Business Training.**
2. **French.**
3. **Literary Training.**
4. **Mental Training.**

Other courses will be announced in the near future.

"T.P.'s Weekly" Business Course.

In this course the object aimed at is not only to impart business knowledge—which, needless to say, is done in a very definite way—but also to give direction and guidance in the acquiring of further knowledge. Particular attention is given to the mental side of business training, and the ways and means of acquiring initiative, resource and self-reliance, thus suggesting the broader principles of the science of business—**principles, the appreciation of which will do as much to advance the intelligent young man as proficiency in the mechanical part of his work.** Needless to say, detailed instruction is provided on such subjects as Correspondence, Book-keeping, etc. Great stress is laid on the Correspondence Lessons, the tuition in which is of a particularly valuable kind.

"T.P.'s Weekly" French Course.

This course is intended to provide the student with instruction in the French language, so that he shall be able to speak and read it fluently. It is based upon a system, arrived at after many years' practical experience, by which all unnecessary drudgery is eliminated. No effort is called for but in the right direction, and the whole subject is rendered as interesting to the learner as it was dull and repellent in the old-fashioned methods.

It is claimed that under the methods evolved for the "T.P.'s Weekly" Correspondence College, the student begins to speak French from the very first lessons.

"T.P.'s Weekly" Literary Training Course.

Great care has been bestowed on this course, with the object of making it thoroughly practical. It has been prepared by an eminent expert.

Special attention is paid to such matters as the formation of style, and the choice of reading in this connection.

The exercises accompanying the lessons are of an especially interesting and practical nature. By their aid the student will more readily attain proficiency than by the study of many theoretical text-books.

"T.P.'s Weekly" Mental Training Course.

The Mental Training Course consists, as its name implies, of a course of lessons on the Art of Thinking and Reasoning. It is designed to give training, guidance, and direction in the means that are open to every young person for self-education in its best sense. The powers and processes of the human mind are explained in a popular but accurate way, the aim being to make the lessons of practical use in strengthening the reasoning powers.

INDIVIDUAL TUITION.

One of the features that will render the various courses of the greatest possible value to the students is the set of exercises that accompanies each lesson. These exercises are to be completed by the student and returned to the College, where they will be examined by a staff of examiners retained for the purpose. When the exercises are corrected they are returned to the student, with such hints and helps as seem necessary in each individual case.

"T.P.'s Weekly" Correspondence College

is intended for those who need guidance in the best direction wherein to exercise their abilities, to provide the best of teaching at such a cost as shall give to students unfavourably circumstanced by time and money, some of the facilities enjoyed by those in more favoured positions. A detailed prospectus and syllabus of "T.P.'s Weekly" Correspondence College will be sent to any address on the receipt of the annexed form or a postcard. They contain full particulars regarding the various courses, the methods of working, fees, etc.

Fill up and post the accompanying form.

TO THE SECRETARY
"T.P.'s WEEKLY" CORRESPONDENCE COLLEGE (Dept. 7),
5, TAVISTOCK ST., COVENT GARDEN, LONDON, W.C.
Please send me a prospectus of "T.P.'s WEEKLY" Correspondence College.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

BULL'S EYES.

Some Unfounded and Confounded Rumours:—
That a General Dejection characterised the Government benches at the opening of Parliament.
That Lloyd George is the "shortest" man in the kingdom.
That income-tax victims call him "the screwdriver" now.
That *The Times* is more readable.
That the *Daily Mail* is good at finding "Terrors."
That the Irish National *Convention* is suitably named.
That he is "Wilkie Barred" to the bookmakers now.
That the story of the Galway bog is not a moving one.
That R. J. Campbell is sorry he talked "shop."
That the Sea Lords will face the Budget with resignation.

Whilst reading a sermon by R. J. Campbell, a Harrogate couple allowed some food, and the pan in which it was being cooked, to spoil. Were they asleep?

The President of Mexico urges that his country is particularly suited for Jewish settlement. But Ikey will want to know about the security.

The fez is being gradually abolished in Turkey as a head covering. Young Turks prefer to sail under bare polls, we presume.

For forcibly kissing a girl in a tramcar a man has been sentenced to a month's hard labour. Rued behaviour.

"Flying gives one an entirely new sense of life," says the Hon. C. S. Rolls. Or absence of life?

A Croydon police-sergeant sacrificed his beard and moustache in order to catch a bookmaker. A bare-faced attempt.

The inmates of the workhouse at Forehoe, Norfolk, complain that they never have any cake. They should try our biscuits.

"There is more corruption in London than in any place in Britain," declared Mrs. Carrie Nation recently. She had just arrived.

It is stated that the White City is to be Blue this year. A somewhat ominous choice.

"All waiters are very tall and thin, or very short and fat," says the *Throne*. Are there no middleweights?

"The Red Peril," is the title of a serial in a contemporary. It will be the unread peril so far as we are concerned.

According to Mr. Forbes Robertson, woman is an unknown quantity But sometimes we find her out.

The melting-house of Knight's soap factory has been burned down. The fat was in the fire.

"Piccadilly is the real river running through London," says Charlotte Mansfield. And there are some queer fish in it.

"Cremation is becoming more popular in Britain now," a contemporary informs us. But it will never be anything but a last resource.

"Tipplar" was the name of a man found to have died from chronic alcoholism. He lived up to it.

"The fat man has long been emblematic of mirth," says *Collier's Weekly*. Then size cures sighs, we suppose.

"Samson" is the title of a new play. It ought to bring down the house.

Canon Lambert, charged with cruelty to a child, has been acquitted. The jury let the Canon off.

The clerk who committed burglary to get proper medical treatment for his eyes, must have heard that "time" heals everything.

"Ladies are getting into the habit of not speaking out," Judge Emden remarked recently. Married men say this is too good to be true.

According to the Mayor of Stepney, Londoners "do not realise the debt they owe to the rate-collectors." The latter do their best to bring it home to them.

The Military Council having forbidden the supply of vodka to Russian soldiers, can hardly complain if the men show a lack of spirit.

"Lost Earthquake Found," reads an *Express* heading. We trust the owner will take more care of it in future.

"What has become of the old ladies of the past?" asks a *Star* contributor. We humbly suggest that they may be dead.

Miss Maud Allan is to give a lecture on classical dances. She should have the subject at the ends of her toes.

Shady Girl won a race at Sandown Park recently. Fast creature.

TO PREVENT AND RELIEVE ALL RHEUMATISM.

This simple home prescription is said to perform complete cures—and in many cases of years' standing: Tincture of Buchu, one ounce; Karox Compound, one ounce; Syrup of Lemon, two ounces. Shake well in bottle and take in teaspoonful doses after each meal and at bedtime. The ingredients can be obtained from any good chemist, are perfectly harmless, and will not injure the most delicate stomach. Its effect upon the Kidneys is said to be excellent, as it helps them to filter and strain from the blood the uric acid, etc., which cause the pain and misery of Rheumatism. As a blood cleansing agent and system tonic, it is of unusual merit.

"BLACK & WHITE" WHISKY

BUCHANAN'S POPULAR 'SCOTCH.'

YARDLEY'S SHAVING SOAP

10½d. of all Chemists

saves a Multitude of Chins from smarting.

YARDLEY & Co., Ltd., STRATFORD, E. "The Stick in the Glass Case."

As you write use the best Ink. The best is AZURYTE. Order it at your Stationer's. F. MORDAN and CO., 326, City Road, London.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA

Insurance Corporation, Limited.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - £350,000.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. HOUSE PURCHASE.

The Corporation issues prospectuses with entirely new features in all departments of business. Agency applications invited. Write for prospectuses, and particulars of Agents' Progressive Bonus Scheme.

Chief Office, 45-48, Holborn Viaduct, E.C.

"A.B.C." Catalogue of the World's Stamps FREE

Packet No. 748 contains 85 different Stamps. Price 1/- post free. With Catalogue 1/2.

To all purchasers of Packet No. 748. This Packet contains 85 different Foreign and Colonial Stamps, including two new Portuguese etc. (Head of King) and 40. (Head of McKinley), Cyprus, rare unused Colonials 1899 2½. rose (cat. 4d.), British Central Africa, King's Head, chocolate, Congo 5d. King, Grenada (Ship), New Zealand rare Official Stamp, India 3 pies rose, O.H.M.S., and the scarce 2d. Transvaal King, and many other good Stamps. This Packet is usually sold at 7/6 or more. Only one Packet to each applicant.

ERNEST A. COX, 164, Strand, W.C.

A.B.C. (6th Edition) Priced Catalogue, 630 pages, published at 1/6, FREE with this Packet.

NO PART OF THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN OR WILL BE UNDERWRITTEN.

The List of Subscriptions will open on TUESDAY, the 16th day of FEBRUARY, and close on or before the following SATURDAY.

APPLICATIONS WILL ONLY BE RECEIVED ON THE TERMS OF THE FULL PROSPECTUS (OF WHICH THIS IS AN ABRIDGEMENT), COPIES OF WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE BANKERS, BROKERS, OR THE OFFICES OF THE COMPANY

CAPSULOID PROPRIETARIES LIMITED

(Incorporated under The Companies Acts, 1862 to 1907.)

This Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

CAPITAL - - - - - £100,000

Divided into 100,000 Shares of One Pound Each.

ISSUE OF 75,000 SHARES OF ONE POUND EACH AT PAR.

Of which 40,320 Shares will be allotted fully paid to the vendors as part of the purchase consideration. 25,000 will be held in reserve to provide additional working capital, if and when required.

34,680 SHARES OF ONE POUND EACH ARE OFFERED AT PAR.

Payable—2s. 6d. per Share on Application.
7s. 6d. per Share on Allotment.
5s. per Share One Month after Allotment, and
5s. per Share Two Months after Allotment.

DIRECTORS.

GEORGE EDWIN DIXON, Chairman and Managing Director of The Capsuloid Company, Limited, and Managing Director of The Figuroid Company, Limited, 47, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

JOHN EDWARD SUTTON, Director of The Capsuloid Company, Limited, 1a, Redan Street, Kensington Park, London, W.

EDWARD EWBANK JUDSON, Director of Taylor's Drug Company, Limited, 173, Hyde Park Road, Leeds.

Two other Directors will be appointed.

BANKERS.

THE LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED. Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., and Branches.

SOLICITORS.

ROOKS, SPIERS, WALES AND WARD, 16, King Street, Cheapside, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

BRUCE AND BELL, 5, Throgmorton Avenue, and Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

AUDITORS.

JAMES E. WARD AND CO., Chartered Accountants, 122, Cannon Street, London, E.C., and Birmingham.

W. HERBERT SMITH, Incorporated Accountant, 51, Albion Street, Leeds.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE.

J. E. WALTERS, 47 HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the purpose of taking over, as a going concern, the business of the Capsuloid Company, Limited, and to further develop its interest in two valuable Proprietary Medicines, with which are associated special contracts; also to take over as a going concern the Figuroid Company, Limited; and to acquire and develop Sciaticine and other Proprietary Articles and Patent Medicines.

By this amalgamation a great saving will be effected in the cost of management of the Companies, as the combined businesses, with the associated Proprietary Articles and the benefits of the contracts, will all be gathered under one Directorate and one Advertising Organisation.

The Proprietary articles to be acquired by the Company, and which are hereinafter briefly described, are—

"CAPSULOIDS,"
"MOTHER'S ADVICE" (formerly called "CICFA"),
"HAMOGALLOLES."

"FIGUROIDS."
"SCIATICINE."

It is beyond dispute that when once the demand for a proprietary article or patent medicine has become established a valuable property has been created. To understand how valuable such a property is, it is only necessary to realise that quite apart from the greater sales which result from increased advertising, there is always a large percentage of the thousands of persons who, having become satisfied with the merit of a patent medicine, will continue year after year to purchase and recommend it. The income from such a demand for a patent medicine or proprietary article of genuine merit is seldom appreciated.

How enormous such incomes are will be best appreciated by remembering that among the numerous patent medicines which have made fortunes for their owners may be mentioned Pink Pills, the proprietor of which left about £1,600,000, though he had advertised the remedy extensively for only about sixteen years, while the owners of Beecham's Pills and Holloway's Pills, though widely known for their generous benefactions during life, gave or bequeathed enormous fortunes.

In this case the success which has already been achieved in establishing these remedies in the public favour has been largely the result of the character of the remedies themselves which are prepared on absolutely scientific lines, so as to accomplish all that is claimed for them, combined with the judicious placing of sound, convincing advertisements and the marked energy which has characterised the management.

In addition to the trade marks registered in England, trade marks have also been registered in foreign countries and many difficulties which stand in the way of introducing proprietary remedies into those countries have been overcome; and, although the Capsuloid Company originally possessed only one remedy—Capsuloids—it now possesses a potent remedy for Anæmia, and a remarkable remedy for Indigestion and Constipation. Valuable contracts have been secured for the acquisition of raw materials on special and exclusive terms.

With so much extensive preliminary work completed, and with such valuable additional remedies now added, a wide field is ripe for further development, and the business already secured in foreign countries is capable of great extension.

Thus it will be seen that all this preliminary work, so necessary for the development of the business, both at home and abroad, has been completed, and the enormous possibilities of the Company's operations demonstrated.

It is to develop those possibilities to a further and greater success that the additional capital is required.

It is evident that such increased advertising as is made possible by the additional capital will result in an enormous increase in business, while the placing of the advertising under one organisation, and the management under one Directorate must necessarily increase the net profits in greater proportion.

Without giving full expression to their expectations, the Directors confidently predict that the profits will be sufficient to pay handsome dividends, beginning with from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. the first year, and rapidly rising.

It is a matter of great importance to note that the Company will be possessed not only of all the Goodwill, Registered Trade Marks, Trade Names, Furniture, Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, and a wide connection at home and abroad, all of which is taken over free from debt, but will possess a substantial working capital for the further extension of the business.

Mr. W. Herbert Smith, who has acted as Auditor to the Capsuloid Company, Limited, for the past three years, has given the following Certificate as to profits:—

"51, Albion Street, Leeds,
30th November, 1908.

"To the Directors of Capsuloid Proprietaries, Limited.

"I have examined the books of the Capsuloid Company, Limited, and its associated businesses for the past five years, to October 12th, 1908, and the books of the Figuroid Company, Limited, since its formation in November, 1907, to the present date, and I hereby certify that the two Companies have together expended £101,000 in advertising their various remedies during that period.

"After charging all working expenses, including salary of Managing Director, and all Directors' fees, and after charging all advertising expenses other than those devoted to extension and development, together with £3,065 spent in securing and defending the Companies' names and trade-marks, there remains a total of £52,500, or an average profits of £10,500 per annum.

"Yours faithfully,
"(Signed) W. H. SMITH,"
Incorporated Accountant,
Auditor to the Capsuloid Company, Limited.

While £10,500 is sufficient to pay 14 per cent. Dividend on the total issued Capital of the Company, future Dividends must reasonably be expected to be such as have rarely been secured by the proprietors of even the very successful Patent Medicines, because it should be remembered that this Company will be possessed not merely of one remedy, but of five most valuable and well tried remedies, on the development and extension of which such large sums have been expended, each of which also possesses in itself merits necessary to produce a fortune when advertised under the conditions and with the management and working Capital which will be at the disposal of the Company.

The preliminary expenses of the formation of the Company exclusive of stamp duties and registration fees up to date of allotment are estimated at £3,500, and will be borne by The Capsuloid Company, Limited. The registration fees and stamp duties will be paid by this Company.

The Full Prospectus and Form of Application for Shares can be obtained from the Company's Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers, and at the Office of the Company.

Application in due course will be made to the Committee of the London Stock Exchange for a settlement.

Dated this 15th day of February, 1909.

CAPSULOID PROPRIETARIES, LIMITED.

THIS FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES MAY BE USED.

No.....

ISSUE OF 75,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH AT PAR.

To the Directors of CAPSULOID PROPRIETARIES, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £....., being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share payable on application for.....
.....Shares of £1 each in the above named Company, I hereby request you to allot to me that number of Shares, and I hereby agree to accept the same or any less number that may be allotted to me, upon the terms of the Prospectus filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I authorise you to place my name on the register of members in respect thereof.

Usual Signature.....

Name (in full).....
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss).

Address (in full).....

.....

Profession or Occupation.....

Date.....1909.

This Form, when filled up, should be sent with crossed cheque, to the LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED, Threadneedle Street, E.C., or branches.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[THE EDITOR *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to—such as whether it related to a legal, financial, insurance, publishing, or general enquiry.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—*Owing to the great increase in the number of* ENQUIRIES *received, consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag." The Editor will, however, in special cases, endeavour to reply by post to those correspondents who forward a stamped addressed envelope. When answers already standing in type have been published,* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will appear. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, &c., which will be duly acknowledged in these columns.*

THE ECONOMIC ELECTRIC CO., of Twickenham, ask us to inform "Weekly" (Rogerstone) that if he will communicate with them they will—if they have not already done so—either return his money or send the goods. They have produced to us the invoice, and apparently transact their business in a straightforward manner. They say they despatch some 30,000 postal packets annually, and, in the number handled, one does occasionally miscarry.

REV. B. B. F. (Holloway).—Yes, how ignorant of Mr. Punch! We will shut our printer up in the Black Hole of Long Acre.

THE REV. E. ALDOM FRENCH, of Brighton, informs us that the statement attributed to him in reference to the earthquake, in the course of a recent sermon at the Dome, is inaccurate. We, of course, accept the rev. gentleman's disclaimer. Our paragraph was founded upon a report in a local newspaper.

C. P. R. H. (Colchester) recommends "Land-Surveyor-to-be" to buy "The Hay and Straw Measurer" (published by Crosby, 75, Stationers' Hall Court).

E. B. (Newport, Mon.) says that, "according to Rugby Union rules, a player born in a county where Rugby football is not fostered is qualified, on account of his birth, to play for an adjacent county which has a Rugby team." All right.

MRS. S. T. (Blackheath) wants to know if nothing can be done to save horses from having to go through streets covered with ice and salt.

"MAYBOLE" (Govan) asks for "a genuinely honest firm conducting these Continental football competitions." We don't happen to know of one.

W. J. P. (Birmingham).—All right. We will send Crow to Manchester. He already knows and likes Leeds and Sheffield. Or shall we send him to Halifax?

J. B. (Handsworth) says Birmingham is "one of the brightest, cleanest and healthiest cities in the United Kingdom, and noted for pretty women." Our Editor agrees.

A. L. (Liverpool) always thought "a bitch was a dog, but a dog was not a bitch," the which is more reasonable than it sounds. He thinks it "a national disgrace" that taxi-cabs are not to be found in our great railway stations.

C. G. (Holloway).—Have we really omitted to warn people against Baronet's Agency (32, Rathbone Place, W.)? We draw the attention of the Masonic authorities to the fact that Baronet's Agency use a Masonic emblem on their cards.

W. E. K. (Wolverhampton).—We agree that one swallow does not make a summer drink, and that one humbug does not necessarily implicate his co-religionists. But the Spiritualists ask us to swallow a good deal, don't they?

F. N. T. (Forest Gate) points out that *Lloyd's* inserts advertisements of spare time employment frauds, but refused to insert an advertisement he sent them, offering to sell addresses. We confess we have no very great sympathy with dealers in this kind of commodity.

M. G. (Mortlake) was visited by a canvasser and paid 2s. a lb. for some tea on condition that she should have her photograph enlarged. After paying for the tea, she was told she could not have the enlargement unless she paid 6s. for a frame. Refusing to do this, she received a letter from the Domestic Supply Co. (26, Red Lion Square, W.C.), apparently written by a badly educated child of 10:—"Kindly note this is not our method of doing business, and moreover we cannot afford to tender goods repeatedly, considering the very small profit we make. We expect you to have the goods ordered, as you ordered same out of free will. You where (*sic*) not compelled to purchase a frame for your enlargement which is given to you. The picture is stocked at our premises for 14 days; will you kindly remitt (*sic*) balance by post, on receipt of which we will forward same together with your original carriage free. We hope you will not force us to collect the amount through the Court which would mean quite unnecessary expenses to both parties." It is strange how many frauds are attempted in the sacred name of tea.

"Erasmic" Shaving Soap gives a smooth, creamy, and lasting lather that softens the beard without making the skin smart.

SHAVES AS SMOOTH AS AN EGG.

In neat nickel cases, at 10d. per stick.

Of all chemists and hairdressers. If thus unobtainable it will be sent post free on receipt of stamps, 10d., by

THE ERASMIC CO., Ltd. (Dept. K), WARRINGTON.

"Erasmic" SHAVING STICK

Suits getting shabby

after the hard wear of the winter can be successfully renovated by the dry-cleaning process, pressed and returned within a few days, smart and fresh, at a charge of 3s. 9d. We have special facilities for work required to a fixed date. Apply to one of our Branches or Agents—address of nearest sent on application—or send your parcel direct to us and we will pay return carriage. If in London ring up

1265 East

and our van will call the same day.

ACHILLE SERRE LTD.

(Nettoyage à Sec)

HACKNEY WICK, LONDON, E.

WHAT WOMEN WANT

is Li-nola, because it brings housework down to an easily managed limit. So many extra duties fall on a woman's shoulders these days, and so slight is the help she gets, that it is an inestimable boon to have a Li-nola floor covering. This handsome low-price material needs no scrubbing, gathers no dust, no dirt, and Li-nola is the only floor covering which can be cleaned quickly. Do the right thing,—try some.

Price and Patterns Free.

Catesby & Sons, Desk 16, 44-47, Tottenham-Ct.-Rd., London, W.

BOVRIL

CHEQUES PAID TO CLIENTS

.. by the .. (1908-9)

NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE,

Great Winchester Street, LONDON, E.C.

1908.			1908.		
8	January	£51,790	16	September	£124,620
15	„	£52,760	23	„	£126,150
22	„	£54,830	30	„	£128,430
29	„	£55,460	7	October	£131,710
5	February	£57,930	14	„	£133,260
12	„	£59,550	21	„	£135,870
19	„	£60,760	28	„	£137,280
26	„	£61,900	4	November	£138,640
4	March	£63,080	11	„	£139,270
11	„	£64,360	18	„	£140,560
18	„	£65,440	25	„	£142,180
25	„	£66,800	2	December	£143,040
1	April	£68,350	9	„	£144,659
8	„	£69,720	16	„	£146,190
15	„	£71,080	23	„	£148,270
22	„	£72,430	30	„	£150,690
29	„	£73,880		1909.	
6	May	£75,260	6	January	£153,870
13	„	£76,790	13	„	£156,090
20	„	£78,470	20	„	£158,240
27	„	£81,950	27	„	£160,310
3	June	£85,870	3	February	£162,530
10	„	£88,720	10	„	£164,720
17	„	£92,030	17	„	£167,180
24	„	£95,120			
1	July	£98,460			
8	„	£100,790			
15	„	£104,510			
22	„	£106,840			
29	„	£108,150			
5	August	£110,730			
12	„	£113,050			
19	„	£115,860			
26	„	£118,210			
2	September	£120,830			
9	„	£122,170			

If you have £6 to invest fill in Form below, and we will send you a large 28-page list of Cheques from £20 up to £500 each paid to our clients.

SPECIAL TRIAL COUPON.

You need only affix ½d. stamp.

The Secretary,
NATIONAL SHARE EXCHANGE,
Great Winchester Street,
London, E.C.

Telegrams: "Hazebever, London."
Telephone: London Wall, 715 (5 lines).
Special Private Wires and Codes.

Please forward me full particulars of the announcement from which this Coupon is taken. The chief proof I require is that you have recently paid over £160,000 to clients acting on your system, with no risk or liability beyond the amount deposited.

NAME .....
(Rev., Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

ADDRESS IN FULL.....
(Please write plainly)

.....

DATE .....

J.B. 628.

Don't delay forwarding this Coupon.

This Free Coupon does not hold you to anything.

F. G. (Tooting Bec Road).—"When you have finished your business, PLEASE TROT," is not a very polite or dignified notice for a serious firm to put up. When people who have no sense of humour begin to jest, the skies should obligingly fall.

S. L. (Brighton).—Why do you think it impossible for a man to point at an animal when his hands are in his pockets? He might point through his pockets or with his foot.

J. O'B. (Liverpool).—The questions you raise are a bit too local to interest many of our readers. By Job!

F. H. (Manchester) wants us to devote ourselves to the study of Socialist literature, but we have already done so. That is one reason why we are an Individualist.

J. D. G. (Cardiff) recently came to London and was disgusted to find foreigners "actually paving the streets." He should have trodden on them.

A. R. R. (Birmingham) has been "engaged on research as to the origin of life." He says, "The King ought to be informed, but I suppose it would not be right for me to try to get an audience." Why not?

"A SCHOOLMASTER" (Derby) wants a biscuit for a Shakespearian Company which announced "Julius Cæsar" as a comedy. But theatrical managers are usually at sea as to what constitutes a comedy.

A. R. G. (Kidderminster).—We see no connection between the fact that Sarasate married a girl of 18 and was "taken with fainting fits and general heart weakness." You must be kidding us.

W. C. S. (Wisbeach).—The case does not call for any special comment. Disputes are always arising about game.

"A CONSTANT READER OF 'JOHN BULL'" (Portslade).—We really cannot undertake to write a review of your local paper.

J. B. (Coventry) complains that a local grocer supplied a customer with an ounce brass weight in a pound of moist sugar. But surely it was not done on purpose.

S. H. S. (Blackheath).—"Three acres and a cow" is usually attributed to Jesse Collings, but might now be forgotten.

H. F. O. W. (Leamington Spa).—"Working Mousekeeper" is quite a funny misprint.

"JACK J. BULLOCK" (Dalston).—If the gentleman was dead, it was evidently correct to say that he had not regained consciousness. Reuters don't often muddle things.

E. W. C. (Southampton).—We cannot have a biscuit for recalling the old joke about a person who only opens his mouth in order to put his foot in it.

W. H. S. M. (Dublin) informs Jim Crow that "the debtor of the lower class goes to prison while the debtor of the middle or upper classes keeps out of it, for the simple reason that the resource of bankruptcy is open to the latter, but not to the former." So we must agitate that the blessings of bankruptcy may be bestowed on the poor.

C. U. K. (Teddington).—What gruesome subjects you choose to jest about! Have a liver pill.

H. O. B. (Salisbury) says that if Christ visited this earth He would not go to newspaper offices. This is too bold a piece of speculation even for us.

A. E. H. (Crofton Park) says he should like to get 7s. 6d. out of 3s. So should we, though we do not know what we should do with such a large sum of money.

A. R. (Shaftesbury Avenue).—What is a polite word for rot?

E. C. G. (Leytonstone).—Is it, by Job?

W. H. A. (Edgbaston).—Who the dickens is Chesterton?

"VOYAGEUR" (Wood Green) went to Boulogne and was insulted by natives in coffee-houses and music-halls. He writes, "Let me say that in looks, manners and bearing I was the equal of any Frenchman present.' Naturally. That is not an extravagant boast.

C. J. S. (Barnes) wants a biscuit for a statement underlined with red ink in a paragraph marked in blue pencil in a cutting which he forgot to enclose.

A. N. (St. John's Wood).—We entirely endorse your proposal to prohibit perambulators from obstructing the side-walks. How dare people have babies?

F. R. D. (Kingsland).—Of course England *could* intervene if anyone declared war against Japan, but we expect she would wriggle out of her engagement when the time came. How dare you use such garish notepaper? It nearly made our dog ill.

B. K. (East Molesey).—Better look up our back numbers.

F. J. (Brighton).—"Financee" is rather a nice word, but does not apply in the case you quote.

"ANGUS" (Montrose) wants to know how he can ascertain the whereabouts of a doctor who practised in England for some years, and cleared out last year "under" suspicious circumstances to North America. We should like to know how to find a needle in a bundle of hay.

A. R. (National Liberal Club).—We rarely read the *Times*, not having much time to spare. Otherwise no doubt we should award that newspaper more biscuits.

J. G. (Gateshead).—Your story is neither new nor refined. Remember that we are read in the drawing-room as well as in the vestry.

W. G. F. (Islington).—We are afraid the amount of the rent scarcely justifies your inference, although the matter certainly deserves consideration.

A. M. (Southwark) wishes to know whether we are "willing to make our name for ever famous by undertaking the authorship of the new historical work, of which he sends us the title page." It is called "Is the House of Commons a Fraudulent Assembly?" We will think the matter over.

J. A. (Islington).—*Everybody* has a patent for preventing motor cars from skidding.

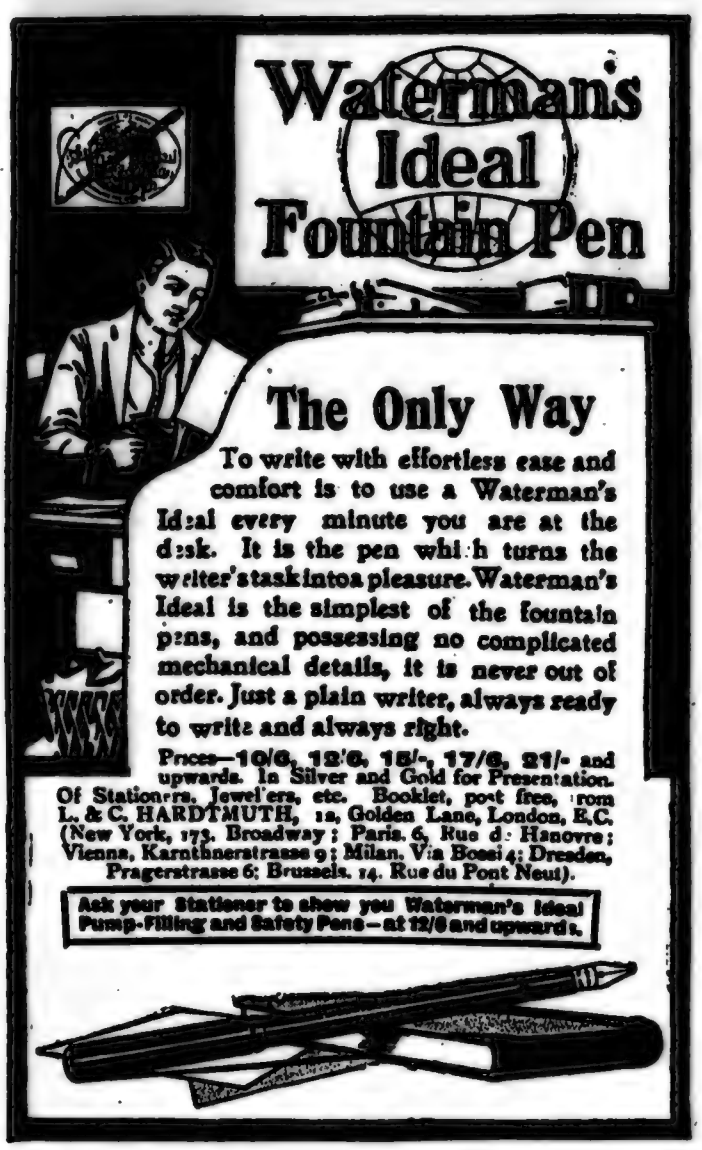
A. G. (Monkseaton).—See answer to H. W. (Northampton). Life is too short to read all the other circulars you send us. Does it ever occur to you that, what with journalism, politics, racing, and general business, time does not hang heavily on our hands?

A. E. G. (Walworth).—Afraid we have no more space at present for the ventilation of readers' grievances, much as we sympathise with them.

F. C. C. (Muswell Hill) saw the words "No admittance except on business" outside a parish church. Well?

P. B. J. (London Bridge) wants to know the exact height of Lord Randolph Churchill. We can find no mention of it in Mr. Winston Churchill's biography, but we think we remember Lord Randolph telling us that he was 5ft. 10in.

W. B. (Catford).—We are too lazy to read long unmarked cuttings.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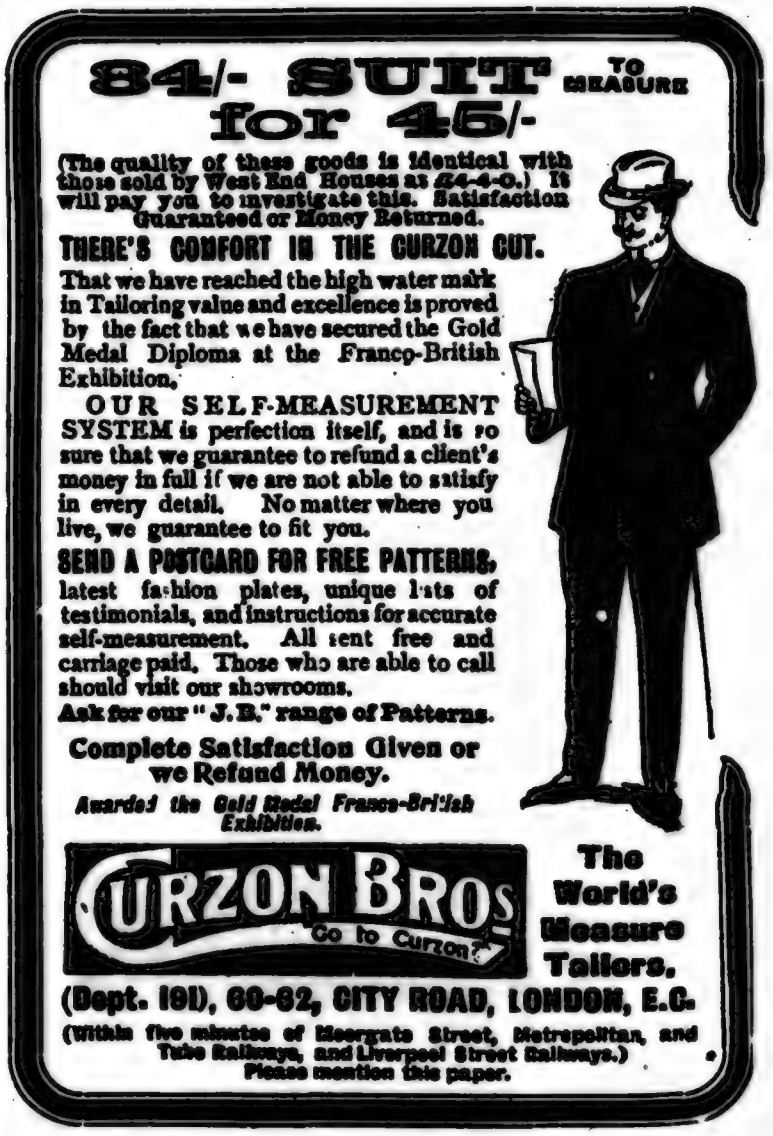
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OBTAINABLE FROM ALL WINE MERCHANTS EVERYWHERE
Established 170 Years
GRAND PRIX AWARD FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION

"ONE WHO KNOWS" (London, S.W.) suggests that we should enquire into the treatment of and wages paid to the staffs, both uniformed and otherwise, of the Great Northern, Piccadilly and Brompton, the Bakerloo and the Charing Cross and Hampstead Railways. We shall be glad to ventilate any specific grievance which may be brought before us, but our hands are fairly full just now.

F. W. W. (Camberwell).—If rich people try to trick the poor out of their pensions, they must not be surprised if special attention is devoted to them by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

G. A. B. B. (Southend-on-Sea) thinks the Messina earthquake was merciful because a quick death is better than "lingering in a London hospital three years on your back." But why have either?

MISS E. T. (Streatham Common) says the Imperial Art Supply Co. (84, Chancery Lane) extorts 7s. 6d. for a set of colours worth 2s. at the outside, takes a long time to deliver the colours, and then says that the work of colouring Christmas cards will be paid for "according to skill and quickness." What philanthropy!

A. R. D. (Silvertown).—We do not advise you to pay a fee to be taught how to become an inspector of weights and measures.

J. A. (Hampstead Road) wants us to eat a biscuit for stating that a Suffragette is a female. We must inquire into this.

E. D. S. (Leeds).—Of course if we had remembered that you numbered your pages in that way, we should not have ventured to criticise the practice.

H. J. P. (South Norwood) says that Barclay, Perkins' notice of stoppage of pensions concluded as follows. "This should be borne in mind when you apply for the old age pensions." This was obviously only a pretext, as application had already been made for them.

D. Ll. E.—Thanks, but we are not yearning to contribute to the Exchequer in that particular way. You must remember that we have already been fined for Contempt of Court.

C. P. (London, E.C.) thinks some of our readers are too serious. He says, "Look what a deal of criticism Jim Crow's pen creates. Tell your readers plain, they must not be so thin-skinned." He wants a page dealing with football, cricket, boxing, wrestling, chess, etc. Anything else?

"CHEMICUS" (Holloway Road) sends us a sample of the bread which is supplied to the prisoners at Holloway Castle. Is this a reminder that we are still at large?

"SPECTATOR" wants to give Jim Crow some information with regard to "the decrease of Romanism on the Continent." We will organise a little tea-party with a Jesuit under the cosy.

"APPENDIX" (Eastbourne) objects to nurse-girls wearing "the uniform of that noble and beloved band, the hospital or trained nurse." This is mere professional jealousy.

R. P. B. (Chesterfield).—We quite agree that the commerce of our country would be the gainer if our consuls were business men. We would go further and suggest that they should invariably be Britishers.

B. B. says taxi-drivers are harshly used by the police, who summon them on the slightest pretext. He says they have no chance against police evidence, and either lose their licences right away or are suspended for three years.

J. M. (Portsea) says that Sir William Bruce, on his own showing, cannot be respectable, as he must have read JOHN BULL to form an opinion thereof.

THE REV. E. B. WOODS, of Kirkcaldy, disclaims the statement recently attributed to him by a local paper and upon which we commented, to the effect that there was at the present time "a great outbreak of defiance against the will of God, and God was not forgetting it—and was showing His displeasure by the mighty disasters which the world was suffering." He tells us that he would have been the last man to use such language, and we, of course, accept his assurance.

T. H. G. (Devonport) complains of the treatment of sailors by the Great Western and South-Western Railways. He says fast corridor express trains are advertised for their benefit and then they are conveyed in ordinary closed carriages marked "reserved for sailors."

"BARON'S COURT" writes: "Don't go to prison if you can help it. I was put in a cell, when only *three*, through the tender mercy of my God, acting through a brutal Scotch nurse who handed me over to Robert because I cried in the street—cried because she carried me in such a way that my poor little inside could get no rest. Since then I have been incarcerated for religious melancholy! Go on, and don't ask questions. Above all keep *outside*, and look at the pretty gardens and the palatial buildings. I saw Kate Bishop converted the other night by Forbes Robertson, J.C. before the eyes of the Princess of Wales, Princess Beatrice and the beautiful Patricia of Connaught, and I also saw her child Marie raised from the dead by Henry Ainley, J.C. There are a good many J.C.'s about just now. It is interesting to learn that Jim Crow is on the road to repentance. God bless him and preserve him." Amen.

G. E. A. (Marlborough).—We must not mind a few pensioners getting tipsy at first. The excitement will soon wear away.

"EGROG" (Aberavon) paid 2s. 6d. to Pastimes Co., 53, Strand, for three photographs of himself, but was dissatisfied with the result. Not having seen him or the photographs, we can express no opinion on the merits of his case.

MRS. E. S. (Windsor) is a cook, who thought she would like to improve herself during her mistress's absence, and it was arranged that she should have twelve lessons for £3 3s. from the Mayfair School of Cookery (6, Baker Street, W.). She found she was only taught to prepare "a five-course boarding-house dinner." In view of the school's advertisement, this is distinctly disappointing.

C. H. (London) and many others, write apropos our question "Why did Commissioner Nicol leave the Salvation Army?" We have however fully investigated the matter and find that the circumstances do not justify us in dealing with it publicly.

F. C. S. (Barnsbury).—We understand you received from Hapgoods two letters of recommendation to firms requiring services such as you could render, but that you did not present one of these; that you were written to twice and telegraphed once to call in reference to vacancies, but did not do so; that for private reasons of your own you disorganized the regular routine of the office and declined two situations—one because you would not go to Wales, and the other because you were going on your holidays and would not allow them to be interfered with. We, therefore, do not see that you have anything to complain of.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

For MEN ONLY

OATINE AND SHAVING.

It has been said that a man's temperament day by day depends upon the condition of his razor. This may be, or may not be so, but the condition of his face after shaving certainly depends on the razor, and it is a fact that never mind how fine a condition the razor may be in, the after effect of shaving is a soreness and chapping of lips and face. This unfortunately cannot be avoided, but it can be minimised to such an extent that it is hardly noticeable by the use of good shaving soap such as either the Oatine Shaving Cream (in tubes) or the Oatine Shaving Stick, both of which are British made and most carefully prepared for the purpose, the cream giving a heavy and the stick a lighter, close-lying lather, but being alike in this, that both give a free, smooth, lasting and agreeable lather that will not dry on the face. If you have not tried either of the Oatine Soaps for shaving do so without delay.

To relieve the irritation caused by shaving there is nothing so effective as Oatine Cream, which possesses special healing properties; it should be applied immediately after shaving and should be gently rubbed into the skin, or better still, rubbed into the beard over night or before the morning shave, this has the effect of softening the beard in a most astonishing manner, rendering shaving far easier and simpler than it is in the ordinary way.

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Nothing better with Fish, Flesh, or Fowl. Bracknell's Club Sauce gives a rare relish to the meal and aids digestion.

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The Subscription List closes on Thursday, the 18th day of February 1909, for Town, and on Friday, the 19th day of February, 1909, for the Country and Continent.

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DOMINION OIL COMPANY,

LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies' Acts, 1862 to 1907.)

CAPITAL - - £120,000,

Divided into 120,000 Shares of £1 each, of which £55,000 will be available for working Capital and the general purposes of the Company.

65,000 Shares of £1 each are now offered for Subscription at Par.

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JOHN RICHARD CROCKATT, Lismore, Woking, Surrey (*Director of the Val de Travers Asphalte Paving Company, Limited*).

GEORGE SEYMOUR FORT, 3, Southwick Place, Hyde Park Square, W. (*Director of Eldorado Banket Gold Mining Company, Limited*).

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THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., and Branches.

SOLICITORS TO THE COMPANY.

J. J. EDWARDS & CO., 28, Sackville Street, London, W.

SOLICITORS TO THE VENDORS.

H. G. CAMPION & Co., 23, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

BROKERS.

E. W. MEYERSTEIN & Co., 1, Draper's Gardens, London, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

AUDITORS.

STEWART BLACKER QUIN & Co., 25, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., and 16, Donegall Square South, Belfast.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES (*pro. tem.*)

J. MORTON MORTON, A.C.A., 25, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Copies of this prospectus and forms of application can be obtained from the Brokers, Bankers, and both Solicitors, and at the Registered Offices of the Company.—*February 15th*, 1909.

RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.
("Larry Lynx" of "The People," and "Magpie" of "The Globe.")

The "Dull" Period.

People invariably think, and say, that turf writers now have an easy time, but as a fact, there is very much more to write about in jumping. Personally, I find it involves considerably more work.

Over the Sticks.

The promise of the present jumping season was much as usual, for although it opened with some zest due to the pleasantries of the game, we were already beginning to wail about witnessing the continuous competition of aged and infirm "crocks." For the moment, however, it is undoubtedly the pretty general opinion that there is a little life in the sport. As many express it, "it was quite a treat to see a bit of jumping, and so much of the running rather than a mere five-furlong dash." Assuredly the risks of the game are not one whit more than those of a five-furlong horse under the gate.

Prophetic.

Windsor's second afternoon, to-day (Thursday) should give a success to BANTAM IV., bottom weight in the Selling Handicap, while with Carsey a probable Manchester runner in the interim, I should pick RAZORBILL to win the Royal Handicap Steeplechase, as the little horse made a bad mistake when right in the front rank half a mile from home at Sandown. At Lingfield—where the character of the course and the going so frequently upset everything—

POSTSCRIPT

is obviously well in the February Selling Handicap, for he certainly ought to have won at Hurst Park, where he jumped the last hurdle badly; his jockey and everyone thought he had won.

JACK—who has interim engagements—may wait for the Southern Handicap, and anyhow the little horse is very likely to pick up a small handicap in the near future. LUCKY JAP, despite his waywardness, would, of course, win the Gravetye Manor Plate, but is unlikely to run; and LADY BRENDA, who figured prominently although unplaced at Sandown, should take this or Saturday's engagement. I should very much like to see EAGERNESS win the Hever Handicap for Burbidge, while BORNALIRA has one or other of her engagements within reasonably safe grasp.

TRADE NOTES.

Our readers' attention is directed to the taking offer of the Artistic Photographic Co., Ltd., appearing in our columns. This well-known fine art publishing firm was established in 1880, and has for nearly thirty years pioneered the movement for bringing into the home the ennobling and purifying influence of Art. The love of the beautiful is inherent in the minds of both the classes and the masses, but whilst only the wealthy were previously able to enrich their homes with the masterpieces of famous painters, even the humblest workers are now enabled to possess replicas of the beautiful conceptions of the Great Masters in Art.

Mr. H. P. White has placed upon the market a most ingenious footprint chart, by the aid of which the inventor claims that it is possible to learn to waltz and reverse in twenty minutes. The chart consists of a clever arrangement of life-size footprints printed in black on white paper. All those interested should at once write to the inventor, Mr. White, 34, New Bridge Street, London E.C.

WHAT OTHERS SAY.

"A GENUINE 'NO LIMIT' TURF ACCOUNTANT."

THE SPORTSMAN, 5/2/09:—

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From *Sportsman*, Feb. 5, 1909.

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102 and 104, NEW OXFORD ST., LONDON, W.

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✚ PLACE BETTING ALLOWED, EVEN WHEN FAVOURITE STARTS "ODDS ON."

NO LIMIT

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CREDIT ACCOUNTS OPENED.

NON-CLIENTS, PLEASE SEND ME YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

ABSOLUTE RELIABILITY.

"STADDY'S"

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MIXTURE

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Price 6d. per 1 oz. packet.

1/- per 2 oz. tin. 2/- per 4 oz. tin.

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See page iii of cover.

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FOR PATENT, GLACÉ KID, BOX CALF AND OTHER LEATHERS.

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USE "NUGGET" POLISHES THEY "DOUBLE the LIFE of your BOOTS"

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The Famous Wine Tonic.

TO COUNTERACT CHILLS AND INFLUENZA.

PROTECTS THE HEALTH. There is unfortunately, a tendency to deterioration in all large cities. Men, and women too, rush about, eat quickly and often unsuitably, worry all day in a vitiated and dust-laden atmosphere, come home over-tired, and spend half the night awake and disturbed. No wonder they get "run down." The remedy for a "run down" condition is "Wincarnis," the famous meat and malt wine tonic. "Wincarnis," protects one's health by raising the powers of resistance to disease. It makes the blood warm and rich in red corpuscles, gives a vigorous circulation.

FREE TRIAL. Send three penny stamps (to pay cost of carriage) to Coleman and Co., Ltd., Wincarnis Works, Norwich, and you'll obtain a sample bottle, free of charge. Mention this paper.

AFTER FREE TRIAL you can buy "Wincarnis" at any wine merchant's, and Chemist's or Grocer's who are licensed to sell wines. You can buy "Wincarnis" with Quinine of Chemists.

"Wincarnis" is also prepared with Iron or Pepsine, or Celery or Quinine.

Contractors to His Majesty's Forces and the R.A.M.C., and by appointment to T. M.'s the King and Queen of Spain.

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Branches: Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Bradford, Bristol, etc.
Assets, £1,627,949. Liabilities, £1,256,371. Surplus, £371,578.
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Stocks and Shares bought and sold.
Two-and-a-half per cent. allowed on Current Account Balances.
Deposits of £10 and upwards received as under:—
Subject to 3 months' notice of withdrawal 5 p.c. per ann.
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Special terms for longer periods. Interest paid quarterly.
Owing to the nature of our Investments, we are able to pay rates of interest on deposits that will compare favourably with dividends paid on almost any class of stock or share-holding insuring the safety of capital. We have been established for 39 years, and our position in the banking world to-day testifies to the success of our business methods, and to the satisfaction of our customers. Write or call for prospectus.
A. WILLIAMS and H. J. TALL, Joint Managers.

A. B. C. Guide to Stock Exchange

(26th EDITION).

Call Options thoroughly explained, also all Stock Exchange operations; how to open account with limited risk; dealings at closer than tape quotations; how to avoid brokers' commissions. Contains highest and lowest sales for last 15 years.

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To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL of specified date bearing any of such numbers we will, upon production of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of ONE GUINEA, in return for his (or her) using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation.

The following claims have been received for the issues of November 28th, December 12th and 26th, January 2nd, and 9th:—

J. W. TUTCHER, 34, Broad Street, Bristol. (No. 145566—November 28th, 1908.)

W. J. POUND, 61, East Street, Manchester Square, W. (No. 265598—December 12th, 1908.)

R. HOOPER, 13, High Street, Reigate. (No. 223785—December 26th, 1908.)

FREDERICK MEARE, Heckfield Place, Winchfield, Hants. (No. 176289—December 26th, 1908.)

T. W. GODDARD, 38, Stondon Park, Forest Hill, S.E. (No. 240518—January 2nd, 1909.)

J. T. CHAPMAN, 48, Blackhorse Road, Walthamstow. (No. 117343—January 2nd, 1909.)

PERCY JOHNSON, 28, Lee Park, Blackheath, S.E. (No. 87431—January 9th, 1909.)

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of January 16:—

487; 11403; 13184; 19746; 23793; 27104; 33005; 50374; 50971; 57412; 60183; 67487; 71463; 75468; 81030; 87569; 94177; 99994; 104578; 105567; 114763; 119567; 126461; 137463; 146397; 153461; 162994; 169473; 176995; 177647; 181601; 189039; 207643; 207811; 213476; 225753; 237469; 245785; 253469; 253467; 253480; 259611; 261004; 267478; 273166; 279460; 281461; 288539; 289981; 290681.

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED MARCH 27TH (PUBLISHED MARCH 25TH).

Special Notice.

We find that the arrangements in connection with our New Ballot Scheme will take somewhat longer to complete than we anticipated, and, therefore, until further notice, the scheme will continue on the old lines, as explained above.

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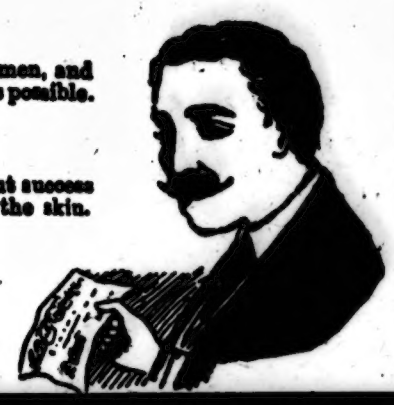

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For meaning of this number see page iii. of Cover.